

NEWS SUMMARY

Disaster ferry expected in port

The Townsend Thoresen ferry, *Herald of Free Enterprise*, is expected to return to the Belgian port of Zeebrugge tonight seven weeks after she capsized with the loss of at least 176 lives.

Work was expected to begin overnight on pumping out water from the lower cargo deck, where a further 20 bodies may still be trapped, so that she can be refloated. But it may be several days before any remaining bodies can be recovered.

Meanwhile, the Government yesterday followed the lead set by the P & O shipping group in unilaterally raising the limit on compensation which can be received for death or injury to sea passengers to £80,000.

Explosives haul

Police in the Irish Republic yesterday seized their second haul of explosives in 24 hours in counties bordering Northern Ireland.

Seven bags containing home-made explosives were discovered hidden in a bog near Bumbeg, Co. Donegal, by Gardaí on routine patrol.

The find occurred after the discovery of an underground concrete bunker containing bomb-making equipment, including nitro-benzene, behind a hay shed on a farm near Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Heysel petition

The Director of Public Prosecutions is to petition the House of Lords for leave to appeal over the blocking by a High Court judge of the extradition to Belgium of 26 Liverpool football fans (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

If leave is granted, the appeal will be conducted personally by Sir Michael Havers QC, Attorney General, or Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, Solicitor General.

Boost in drugs war

Three new fast patrol boats are set to join the fight by HM Customs and Excise against drugs smuggling.

A £5.5 million contract for them has been awarded to Fairbairn Marine Ltd, of Cowes, Isle of Wight.

The new vessels, with a top speed of 25 knots, will be used for coastal and deep water anti-smuggling patrols.

They will replace three 20-metre cutters which have been in service for the past 10 years.

Riddle of shell blast

Forensic science tests on fragments of an army shell which injured a boy walking on a public path on Dartmoor were carried out last night as an inquiry began into the blast.

James Gibb, aged 12, of Henrietta Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, was satisfactorily injured in hospital.

The army said there had been no recent firing on the range. The leader of the walk said she was not sure whether the boy picked up anything.



Graffiti rules

Graffiti, the bane of local authorities and transport companies, is to be officially recognized as an art form.

The highlight of the East Coast Arts Festival, to be held in Bridlington, Humberside, from May 2-9, is Britain's first International Graffiti Festival.

Entrants from several countries will compete for a £1,000 first prize, displaying their skills on a disused railway platform.

The town's mayor will open the contest by spraying "Bridlington Rules OK" on a wall.

£8m attack on cancer

An £8 million boost for cancer treatment and research involving Oxford University, the area health authority and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, is on the way.

Oxford will gain a £3 million laboratory at the John Radcliffe Hospital to investigate genetic changes and cancer, and a 12-bed ward for patients at the Churchill Hospital. A new professor's chair is to be created at the university to specialize in cancer treatment.

Californian frog dispute

New York — A California schoolgirl is threatening to make a federal case out of a frog. Jennifer Graham, a 15-year-old from Victorville, north-east of Los Angeles, is fighting a school ruling that she must dissect frogs in her biology class or drop the

course (Charles Bremner writes).

The Humane Society of the United States and a team of high-powered lawyers have stepped in behind her and will represent her against the school board next month.

Pageantry returns to Liverpool

The pomp and circumstance of a bygone age yesterday returned to Liverpool where it had been outlawed by its former Militant Labour rulers. Crowds cheered the Lord Mayor Lady Doreen Jones as she was driven through the city in a horse-drawn coach, rescued from obscurity in the museum store to which it was consigned by Labour.

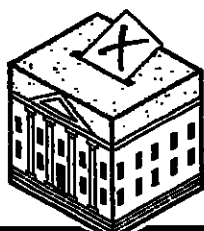
Lady Jones travelled in traditional civic splendour to the city's St George's Hall which was re-opened to mark the feast day of the nation's patron saint.



The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Lady Doreen Jones, leaving St George's Hall after the re-opening ceremony yesterday.

Battle for votes in council elections puts spotlight on services or lower rates

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor



LOCAL ELECTIONS

Voters in this year's local elections will essentially be choosing whether they want more services or lower rates. Although national issues will figure with a general election so close, the essence of the local government elections battle this year is money.

The Labour Party accuses the Government of starving local authorities of the funds to provide proper services. The Conservatives accuse Labour authorities of being spendthrifts. Both accuse the Alliance of being a pale imitation of its main opponents.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, says: "When John Cunningham (Labour's environment spokesman) accuses Conservative councils of being penny

pinching he thinks that is an insult. We take it as a compliment. Those pennies are not ours to waste."

Labour claims in return: "The average Conservative council provides a far worse level of service than the average Labour council". It criticizes Conservative councils for raising rents and cutting services; and the Government, which has introduced 14 Bills in its quest

to control local government expenditure, for undermining local democracy by taking power back to Whitehall.

The Conservative pitch is that those too young to remember the last Labour Government have in Labour local government a warning of what another Labour Government would provide. It says that the Left, having been driven out of trades unions by Conservative reforms, saw the power and patronage of local government as a new lure.

Claiming that the activities of the so-called "Loony Left" are not confined to London (where there are no local elections this year), the Conservatives say that left-wing Labour administrations hold sway over some six million people. They put the debts of Labour councils who have gone in for deferred purchase schemes at more than £2 billion.

The Conservatives say Labour councillors are hostile to the police, having set up in

some areas police committees whose only function is to collect complaints, and claims that the party wastes money on funding single issue campaign groups and political propaganda.

Labour would abolish rate-capping and surcharging which the Conservatives claim to be the only protection for the ratepayer against councillors' abuse of power.

But the local elections are likely to be much more of a test of Conservative plans for rates reform, with the abolition of domestic rates and their replacement by a community charge on all adults, together with the introduction of a unified business rate.

Labour is countering Conservative claims of profligacy by insisting that Labour councils do more things for more people and emphasizing the need for investment.

Labour's local government publicity material emphasizes law and order, promising more policemen on the beat, better street lighting. It calls for more investment in education.

The Alliance, which is pledged to regional parliaments and greater local

accountability, echoes the Tories in promising better value for money but follows Labour in accusing the Government of trying to kill local democracy. Mr Des Wilson, the

Liberal president, says: "We believe that the issue that is at stake is the level of service to local people."

Using local government as an advertisement for the coalition politics it would like to see nationally, the Alliance claims that where the parties have got together in realistic talks, local people have gained a fair deal, open government

Labour says of the Alliance: "In the very few councils they control the Alliance have proved to be nothing more than Tories in disguise". The Conservatives say the opposite, claiming that the Alliance in local government has proved Labour's mirror image.

The Alliance, however, says that it has consistently clipped the wings of Labour extremists. "Labour minority administrations which must do a deal with the Alliance to get their budget through have on average lower rate rises than Conservative minority administrations".

Concorde lands 'like a fighter'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The pilot of a British Airways Concorde flew his supersonic jet like a fighter to force down a jammed undercarriage.

As engineers yesterday examined the aircraft on the runway at Prestwick airport they were convinced that only Captain John Cook's superb airmanship prevented a crash landing earlier this week.

The Concorde, which was on a "circuit and bumps" training routine with five potential supersonic pilots and three training officials on board, was making its seventh approach of the day at the Nato base of Machrihanish.

As one of the trainees lined up for a standard landing approach, he reported that one of three green lights on the instrument panel which should have glowed to show that the entire landing gear was locked into place, had failed to appear. This meant that the port landing leg had not fully retracted.

Repeated attempts to get it to lock into position by using the standard procedures failed and Captain Cook, the flight training manager of the Concorde fleet, decided to head back to base at Prestwick and take over the landing himself.

He reckoned that if he could put the aircraft into a high-speed steep turn and induce enough "G force" it could just be enough to snap the troublesome gear into position.

"We used to use this technique in the old RAF aircraft," he said last night.

By banking slightly he was able to keep the damaged undercarriage off the runway until the very last moment.

Layoffs continue at Luton plant

By Ronald Farr, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The giant Vauxhall car plant at Luton, Bedfordshire, lay silent yesterday, victim of an unofficial strike by a key group of 48 welding maintenance fitters demanding higher status and more pay.

Some 2,500 other workers were laid off for the second day without pay while negotiators tried to settle the dispute and £4 million was lost on production.

The strike began as Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Employment, was telling a Confederation of British Industry conference that Britain now enjoyed a new era of good industrial relations.

It also coincided with a record demand for the company's Cavalier and the highest earnings Vauxhall workers have yet achieved.

Few employees expected that the stoppage would be prolonged. One said yesterday: "There is too much at stake. Because it is an own goal and not caused by some external reason, no one gets paid."

The strong certainty was that one dispute does not make a return to the industrial anarchy of the seventies when Vauxhall lost five million man hours or 27 per cent of all available working time to wildcat strikes.

Last year that figure had reduced to less than 1 per cent. Another worker said: "Lord Young may be quite right to say that things have improved beyond recognition but that doesn't mean the right to strike for a justifiable reason has been tossed out the window."

Vauxhall workers take home an average of more than £200 a week including overtime and productivity bonus.

There was no wish to see the dispute extend or particular sympathy for the aggrieved 48, members of the EETPU and the AEU, who have been told their claim must wait until the next round of negotiations.

Ford was Britain's only big vehicle manufacturer to be profitable in 1986, although its profits slumped to £108 million from £160 million in 1985. Its rivals Austin Rover, Peugeot Talbot and Vauxhall were all in the red last year.

Currency fluctuations which increased sharply the cost of West German, Belgian and Spanish-built Fords and components from the Continent are blamed by Ford for the fall in British profits.

Yugoslav grandmaster seizes dramatic lead

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Ljubomir Ljubojevic, the Yugoslav grandmaster, has seized the lead in dramatic fashion in the SWIFT "Super Grandmaster" chess tournament in Brussels.

Ljubojevic, playing black against Bent Larsen (Denmark) in the tenth round, rapidly gained the initiative and ended with an overwhelming final attack after his opponent had committed several errors.

Meanwhile, the two great Russians, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, and Anatoly Karpov, played their 10th match against each other, a record for modern chess.

Kasparov walked a tight-rope with the black pieces in a desperate effort to win. He got into terrible time-trouble and lost a pawn but took some of

the initiative. He finally won a pawn but it was insufficient to force a win.

A huge public ovation greeted the two players when they agreed to a draw, and they were jointly awarded a special prize for the most interesting game of the round.

Nevertheless, this result permitted Ljubojevic to take the overall lead.

Yesterday was devoted to the clearance of adjourned matches. The eleventh and final round will be played today when Ljubojevic, playing white, faces Karpov, and Kasparov, playing white, meets Mikhail Tal.

Leading standings: 1, Ljubojevic 8 points; 2, Kasparov 7½; 3, Karpov 6 and one match adjourned; 4, Tal 6.

Branson starts tree project

Mr Richard Branson climbed central London's highest tree yesterday to launch the Forest of London project — part of the UK2000 campaign of which he is chairman.

It took him 35 minutes to climb all 120ft of the plane tree behind St George's Church, South Audley Street.

He hopes to give thousands in London the inspiration to plant and tend saplings.

Mr Mark Johnston, leader of the Forest of London project, said every local authority and borough would be taking part in the city's biggest tree planting programme.

"It wasn't a difficult climb technically, but a very tough one because it was long", Mr Johnston said.



Mary, royal forebear who will not go away

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The execution of Mary Queen of Scots 400 years ago is to be marked this year by a service in Westminster Abbey, where she is buried, but without royal participation. It is, some Scottish sources say, still too politically sensitive.

Buckingham Palace maintained there would have been no precedent for such a royal presence: members of the Royal family do not take part in commemorations of the death of Charles I either.

Discounted on both sides is any suggestion of a religious controversy — though Mary was a Roman Catholic, executed on the orders of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I.

But Mr Ian Barr, chairman of the Saltaire Society in Edinburgh, is claiming that the English establishment and Buckingham Palace are "singularly uninterested" in giving Mary Queen of Scots any official recognition.

He asked in a letter to the *Scottishman* newspaper: "What are the Scots to make of that?"

Mr Barr said yesterday that the present Queen's descendance through Mary Queen of Scots through her son James VI (James I of England), not through Henry VIII.

Buckingham Palace said the present Queen had lent some historic items for an exhibition concerning Mary Queen of Scots in Holyrood Palace.

Professor Jack Scarusbrick, an expert on Reformation history, said: "I think Elizabeth I probably feels exactly the same embarrassment as Elizabeth I did: just wishing the woman would go away."

Minister cuts relations with defiant Dalyell

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

War broke out at Westminster last night between two Scots in a bizarre twist to the Project Zircon spy satellite affair.

In a move which has staggered his fellow ministers, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, severed relations with Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow.

At issue is Mr Dalyell's persistent allegation that Mr Rifkind knew about the plan to snoop on the BBC's Glasgow offices to seize material on the project the day before the raid.

Mr Rifkind's patience finally snapped yesterday when he sent a letter to Mr Dalyell stating: "Your refusal either to withdraw these false allegations or to attempt to substantiate them leads me to conclude that you are motivated by malice or obsession and not by the public interest."

"Until such time as you withdraw these false allegations against my integrity and honesty, any further communication with you will be the minimum."

The dispute dates back to April 3 when Mr Dalyell accused Mr Rifkind of being "economical with the truth" about his knowledge of the raid.

An unrepentant Mr Dalyell last night described Mr Rifkind's attack as "like a footballer who, when he cannot get the ball, responds by going for the man".

Mr Dalyell has warned Mrs Margaret Thatcher that he intends to raise the issue next Thursday when he is drawn second in Prime Minister's question time.

Legal case for private education

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The abolition of fee-paying independent schools as proposed by the Labour Party would be illegal under the European Convention on Human Rights, according to two barristers who are experts in European law.

The opinion of Anthony Lester, QC, and Mr David Pannick is put forward in a booklet published yesterday with a supporting foreword from Lord Scarman, the former Lord of Appeal.

In it the barristers, both Social Democrat lawyers, say they are of "the firm opinion" that a future government could not lawfully prohibit fee-paying independent education, remove the benefits of charitable status, or impose Value Added Tax on school fees.

Independent Schools — *The Legal Case* (RSC, 36 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG, £1).

● The annual conference of the second biggest teaching union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, yesterday rejected the advice of its national executive and voted by an overwhelming majority for "no teacher should be required to cover for the absence of another teacher."

Judge Pickles launches TV challenge

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Judge James Pickles, the outspoken circuit judge who has been threatened with dismissal, yesterday challenged Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, to air his differences with him in a television debate.

"The rift between myself and Lord Hailsham is unseemly and ought to be ended", Judge Pickles said.

The judge, aged 62, said he was prepared to debate on

television certain matters "which are of great public interest": they are the Kilnmuir rules, which prevent judges from speaking out in public, the system of judicial appointments and whether there ought to be a ministry of justice in place of the present system with the Lord Chancellor as its head.

He was prepared to meet the Lord Chancellor to discuss outstanding problems, but only on condition "that the Lord Chancellor withdraws the threat to sack me contained in his letter of June 21, 1985: I can't negotiate with a pistol at my head. Second, that a shorthand note be taken of what is said."

He denied that he was daring the Lord Chancellor to dismiss him. "What I am saying is that there are matters which ought to be discussed in public." The latest broadside from the judge coincides with the publication yesterday of his book, *Straight from the Bench*, in which he launches a further attack on what he sees as the shortcomings of the

present legal system. The book is the latest of Judge Pickles' pronouncements, all of which are in breach of the Kilnmuir rules which prohibit judges from speaking out without the Lord Chancellor's permission. Those rules are a "dead letter" and should be abolished, he maintains.

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor's Department would not comment either on the book or on the judge's invitation to Lord Hailsham to take part in a debate.

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BBC plan

Frozen embryos yield the world's first twins born 18 months apart

Couple tell of their joy as test-tube baby goes home

By Craig Seton

The world's first test-tube "twins" to have been conceived at the same time but born 18 months apart were taken home from hospital in a Rolls-Royce yesterday by their thrilled and overwhelmed parents.

The new arrival, Elizabeth, who made medical history when she was born two days ago at the North Staffordshire Maternity Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, joined her twin sister Amy, born 18 months ago, for the short journey to a family celebration and party.

Their proud father, Mr Phil Wright, a games teacher, aged 36, and their mother, Mrs Mary Wright, aged 38, also a teacher, drove the twins home in a Silver Shadow that he had bought to start a new executive and wedding cars business.

As they left the maternity hospital after an emotional farewell to medical staff who helped in the birth, Mr Wright, who was also celebrating his birthday, said: "I just want to get them all home."

Earlier he had described how he hid from his wife his feeling of hopelessness of ever being able to start a family.

Elizabeth's birth was a dream come true for the couple, who had taken part in medical tests for five years before their twins arrived. Their new family, born after test-tube baby treatment from eggs kept in a deep freeze, also

cost them £5,000, but they said it was money well spent.

Mr Wright said he feared the couple would never be able to start a family because Mrs Wright was sterilized when her previous marriage broke up.

He said: "I was very sceptical. When we got to the frozen aspect of it I thought there was no hope, but I never dared say that to Mary."

Eggs had been taken from Mrs Wright at the Bourn Hall fertility clinic, near Cambridge, which is run by Mr Patrick Steptoe, the gynaecologist, and Dr Robert Edwards.

They were then fertilized with Mr Wright's sperm and implanted in his wife.

The couple had Amy 18 months ago and were so delighted with her that they asked doctors to try implanting another egg which had been frozen in liquid nitrogen. Four eggs had been kept frozen and although two did not survive the thawing process, one of the remaining two produced Elizabeth.

Mr Wright said: "It was a chance of millions and millions to one. To get one baby from a frozen embryo is a miracle but to get two is phenomenal."

During both pregnancies he and his wife had stimulated the babies in the womb by playing music to them and gently tapping them.

Speaking with obvious admiration for his wife, he

said that at some times the tests they had had to undergo had seemed endless.

"She did this for me and it is fantastic because she is no spring chicken. She will be 39 in the summer."

The couple are both teachers at the Coppice Special School in Newcastle under Lyme, where they met.

Mr Wright is shortly to leave teaching to start his own business.

Having the babies had been an emotional as well as a financial strain.

But Mr Wright, who was present at both births, said: "They may have been babies by overdraft but we could never have spent £5,000 so well."

Elizabeth weighed 8lb 11oz and, like her mother, was fit and well after the birth.

Mrs Wright said: "It is hard to take it all in but I feel wonderful. I have spent so long looking forward to this but now it has happened I am having trouble taking it in."

The couple intend to bring up their "twins" normally — away from the public gaze — but when they are old enough to understand they will tell them the circumstances of their extraordinary birth and their place in the medical history books.

Mrs Wright said she and her husband were optimistic and she was a fighter.

But the couple rejected the notion that they had faced a

moral or religious dilemma over the use of the in-vitro fertilization method to produce their wonderful children.

Mrs Wright said: "I know some religious people are opposed to it but I do not think they really understand. Every test tube baby is desperately wanted and desperately loved."

Her husband said: "If anyone came here and saw these two perfect babies how could they say that it is immoral?"

The couple believe that test-tube babies are becoming so common that by the time their children are at school, one of their friends might also have been born that way.

Mr Duncan Gough, the consultant gynaecologist who looked after Mrs Wright, said that in his opinion the girls were not true twins.

He regarded twins as being two fetuses that develop together in the same uterus.

But Mr Wright was obviously unconcerned about the gynaecological technicalities. He said proudly before taking his family home: "They are fraternal twins."

The birth certificates of the twins will give no indication that they are unique. A spokesman for the registrar of births at St Catherine's House in London said that the sisters Amy and Elizabeth Wright would not be registered as twins.

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Portfolio Gold

Architect turns in a winner

Mr John Turner, an architect of Onslow Village, Guildford, Surrey, is the sole winner of the £4,000 Portfolio Gold Prize.

Mr Turner, who works in a private practice in Weybridge, Surrey, is hoping to treat his wife, Elizabeth, and children Sarah, aged 12, and Giles, aged 15, to a holiday and to carry out some home improvements with the money.

He said: "My wife decided to start playing the competition nine months ago and I kept it going. We intend to do up the bathroom and to redecorate as well as have a good holiday, but we have not decided where yet."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Child hunt was ploy to win wife

A man told police his daughter, aged six, was missing in an attempt to persuade his wife to return to him. Horseferry Road magistrates heard yesterday.

His action led to a hunt taking 700 hours of police time, with a search of the Thames by frogmen and nationwide publicity.

Graham Ellis, aged 28, of Upper Blantyre Walk, World's End Estate, Chelsea, south-west London, pleaded guilty to wasting police time, and sentence was deferred for six months.

The court was told that his wife, Mrs Karen Ellis, had walked out.

In desperation Ellis took his daughter to the home of two friends and reported her missing to police.

Two days later he confessed his ploy to the friends. One of them, Lyn Thorogood, went to Selfridges store in central London and left the girl in the lost property office.

Miss Thorogood, aged 25, later dialled 999 and told police where they could find the missing child.

Ellis and Miss Thorogood's boyfriend, Graham Waite, aged 27, a painter of Stanhope Gardens, Ilford, Essex, were arrested.

All three were charged with wasting police time.

Miss Thorogood, who denied the charge, agreed to be bound over in the sum of £100 for 12 months.

The case against Mr Waite was dismissed.

Legislation likely as medical and ethical concern grows

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The birth of "twins" 18 months apart to parents at Stoke-on-Trent could be the first of many children developed from frozen embryos.

The two babies born to Mrs Mary Wright were conceived three years ago in a petri dish in the laboratory at Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge, of the test-tube baby pioneers, Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards.

Mr Steptoe said yesterday there were about 300 other embryos of other infertile couples stored in the sub-zero conditions.

Commenting on the concern that still surrounded conception by in-vitro fertilization, the couple said yesterday that every test-tube baby was desperately wanted and desperately longed for.

About 50 babies had so far been born after freezing and were all normal.

Nevertheless every advance in the treatment for infertility, which has produced about 3,500 babies worldwide, including 1,000 in Britain, raises

a new set of medical and ethical concerns.

There is an legislation covering the protection of frozen embryos and how long they can be stored. But the Government is planning to introduce regulations in the next Parliament, depending on the replies to a consultative document sent recently to interested groups.

The government proposals embrace surrogate motherhood and the fate of test embryos not used to treat infertility, as well as the terms of running test tube-baby services.

The intention is to make it an offence for mothers to bear children for another woman.

A statutory licensing authority would be created for infertility clinics, embryos used for research would be kept no longer than 14 days after fertilization and non-commercial surrogacy arrangements would be illegal.

A period of 25 days for the length of time a human em-

bryo should be cultured in the laboratory was proposed at the last meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology.

Mr Steptoe, a Fellow of the Royal Society, said he thought embryos should be stored for longer than two years. Other researchers have suggested a time limit of 10 years.

He believed they should then be disposed of either by giving them to research or by possibly making them available to other people. He suggested embryo donation was "right, ethical and moral".

An egg could be donated to a couple if a wife had a hereditary condition, which meant there would be a high probability of her own genetic children being affected by an abnormality.

The cost of a course of infertility treatment at one of the clinics covered by the Voluntary Licensing Authority formed in Britain is between £200 and £1,800.

St George's Day enjoys a revival

By Ruth Gledhill

Celebrations, official speeches and lavish dinners were the way England paid homage yesterday to its patron saint.

St George's Day was celebrated more widely than at any other time in the past 25 years, according to the Royal Society of St George.

The society laid a wreath of roses at the Cenotaph in honour of those who had died for England.

Its president, Sir Colin Cole, said: "St George was not

English but he came to be regarded as the patron saint of England 750 years ago.

"This was largely because he was a typical soldier saint. I do not think he is in any danger of being forgotten."

Harrods was embarrassed to discover that for the first time in as long as anyone could remember the store had forgotten to hoist the flag.

"Last year all the staff were wearing roses. The maintenance men normally put out the flag but they said no one

asked them to do it this year", it said.

Sotheby's remembered yesterday morning that it was St George's Day and despatched a messenger to the north London flagmakers, Ernest Perrett, to buy a flag.

Mr Ernest Pleass, director at Perrett's, recorded a roaring trade in the red and white crossed flags.

Florists in London sold roses at about 70p each in bunches of up to 60 at a time. Westminster's Lord Mayor,

Mrs Terence Mallinson, held a City Hall reception for the charitable hostel St George's, to which none of the 70 homeless men the hostel accommodates was invited.

At St George's Cathedral, in Southwark, south London, it was decided that the saint's day was too close to Easter — it has been "moved" to May 9.

In Dover, there was added poignancy to the ceremony to remember those who died during the St George's Day raid on Zeebrugge in 1918.

GPs 'must take more notice of Aids'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Family doctors were urged to take more interest in the care of Aids patients yesterday after only 10 general practitioners attended a national conference on the disease.

The organizers expressed disappointment at the low turnout of GPs among 200 health workers and other delegates at the two-day conference at Bradford University.

"We hoped many more doctors would attend. They will have to treat Aids as a priority before it arrives on their own doorsteps", Dr Liakat Parapia, one of the organizers, said.

Dr Peter Jones, director of the Newcastle Haemophilia Centre, said: "Family doctors must not be led to believe that Aids is the responsibility only of hospitals. It is inevitable that they will have to play a pivotal role in the care of Aids sufferers in the community."

Some doctors, in common with the general public, were

afraid of the disease or had misconceptions about the risks of contact with victims of it, he said.

About 50,000 people in Britain may now be infected and the present 700 cases of Aids could rise to about 4,000 within the next two years, the conference was told.

Professor Mark Baker, the district general manager of Bradford Health Authority, said that deaths from Aids would overtake those from cervical cancer — about 2,000 a year — by 1990 and would

eclipse the annual toll from breast cancer — about 15,000 — by the mid 1990s.

"All the portents exist for a medieval backlash against infected people and their families. We must ensure that the sufferers are offered compassion, humanity and skill."

Dr Francoise Barre-Sinoussi of the Pasteur Institute in Paris said that a second Aids virus, HIV2, was probably spreading already in most European countries including Britain.

Car fault clue to lake death

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

Detectives are investigating the possibility that Shani Warren, who was found floating bound and gagged in a lake, was attacked after her car broke down.

Yesterday Thames Valley police said a couple driving near the lake in Buckinghamshire on Good Friday, when Miss Warren disappeared, have reported seeing a car similar to hers at a layby near the lake. A girl and three men were gathered around it.

Police mechanics have found a fault in the gearbox of Miss Warren's car which could have developed suddenly and seriously affected driving.

Miss Warren, aged 26, from Stoke Poges, is believed to have died after an attack was interrupted in some way and she was thrown into the lake. ● Kent detectives were yesterday trying to identify the body of a woman who was beaten, asphyxiated and dumped trussed at the edge of a field on a country road near Maidstone, Kent.

The woman, aged about 30, who was wearing a jacket over a night dress, was found at a place one mile from the M20.

'Phantom' actor has relapse

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

Michael Crawford, the actor, has suffered a setback in his illness as a result of resuming his performances in *Phantom of the Opera*, and has been ordered to rest completely for at least a week.

Crawford, aged 45, returned to the starring role for two performances on Wednesday, against medical advice, after his understudy suffered a knee injury in rehearsals.

His agent said yesterday that the strain had aggravated a hiatus hernia, a severe stomach disorder, from which he has been suffering for six weeks, when there had been signs of improvement.

"Michael has an inflamed oesophagus associated with the hernia, and potential complications if the condition is aggravated include haemorrhage and stricture. He has been advised the only cure is intensive medical therapy and enforced rest."

Crawford had not previously missed a performance of the musical, at Her Majesty's Theatre in London.

James Patterson, the second understudy, was taking the role of the Phantom for the first time last night.

'Lack of care' led to jail death

The death of a prisoner who was given tranquillizers when he complained of chest pains, was due to natural causes aggravated by lack of care, an inquest jury said yesterday.

After the hearing in Guildford, Surrey, Mrs Sylvia MacDonald, of Stepney, east London, the mother of the dead man said she was considering suing the Home Office.

Peter MacDonald, a former heroin addict aged 25, died from a rare heart condition while serving a two-and-a-half year sentence at Coldingley prison, Bisleigh, Surrey.

Mrs MacDonald said: "I think if Peter had not been in prison he would be alive today."

Couple died in drug embrace

Two young drug addicts died in each other's arms in their bed in Norwich, an inquest was told yesterday.

Verdicts of misadventure were recorded on Alan Jones, aged 21, and Caroline Partridge, his girl friend aged 18, of Northumberland Street, Norwich, who fell asleep on their bed from a mixture of methadone, barbiturates and beer.

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BBC plans 'pay video' link

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The BBC may launch a "while you sleep" subscription television service to deliver feature films to video recorders in the middle of the night.

Viewers who pay a fee to receive the films would be able to play them back at their own convenience.

The idea is expected to be discussed next week when Mr Michael Checkland, director-general, meets Mr David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting.

The night subscription television service would be transmitted in code and only subscribers who buy or rent

special equipment would be able to receive the programmes.

Home Office ministers are enthusiastic about launching a subscription television service and are considering authorizing it in a broadcasting Bill to be introduced early in the next Parliament.

If the corporation decides to go ahead with the scheme, it would be likely to seek a private contractor to operate it.

● The BBC said last night that it had made export sales and co-production arrangements worth more than £5 million by

the third day of the international television fair in Cannes.

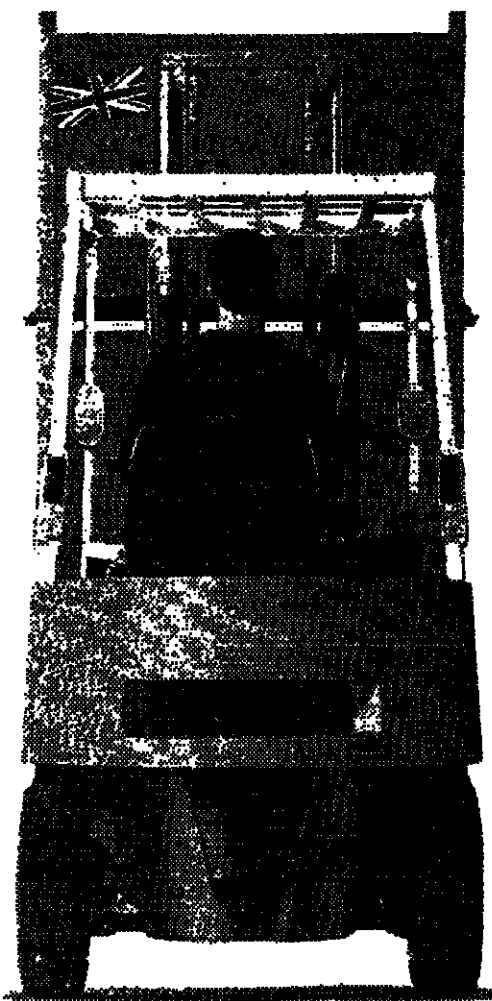
The orders included the sale of *EastEnders* and *Doctor Who* to Spain, where they will be dubbed into Catalan.

● At least four ITV companies are now making significant profits from Channel Four, industry sources said yesterday.

The companies, Thames, London Weekend, Anglia and TVS, were said to be making between £2 million and £4 million annually from their advertising sales for the channel.

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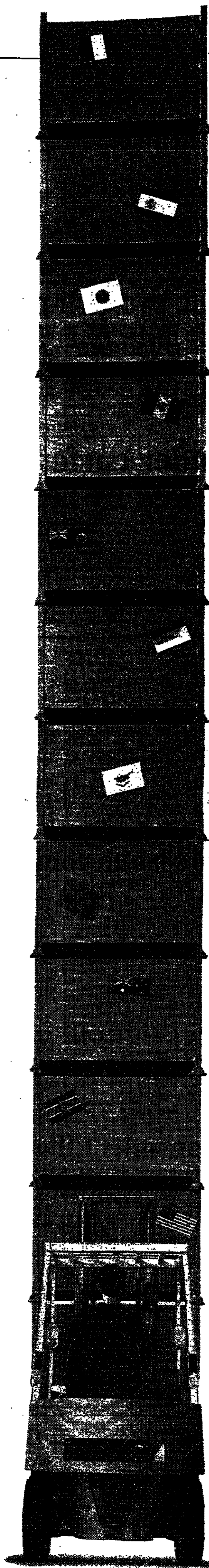
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right, a treaty was signed in the war-torn city of Hiroshima Aug. 14, 1945. The Japanese then agreed to the demand that they surrender the device.

"Trade goods will be the most useful product which we will accept in exchange for our valuation of the goods," the report says.

After that, the report says, if the Americans want to come on land to take away the bomb, they must leave Japan.

A Minute Man spokesman said the report had 45,000 copies and that 25 of them had been distributed.

Ordeal at sea

The men were taken to the hospital from exposure to the radiation and were treated when they were taken yesterday but are expected to survive. They were ordered to sleep in the boat when it became rough seas. They had survived on a diet of raw fish and ruminate.

Honecker reforms

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WORLD SUMMARY

Islamic militants riot in Tunisia

Tunis (Reuters) — Foreigners were molested and police cars set on fire during anti-government demonstrations in central Tunis which began on Wednesday night. Demonstrators, apparently Islamic militants, chanted slogans against President Habib Bourguiba, aged 83, who was on a tour of the south of the country. Several policemen were injured by stones and iron bars.

Since the 1979 Iranian revolution the Tunisian Government has been alternately tough and tolerant towards Islamic militancy at home. The independent Arabic-language weekly, *Al-Rai*, this month published a list of 45 people it said had been arrested in recent weeks.

Tunisia was rocked by riots in January 1984, when nearly 100 people were killed in a bloody nationwide protest against the doubling overnight of the price of bread.

Atrocities detailed

Zagreb (Reuters) — Mr Dobroslav Paraga, the Yugoslav dissident, yesterday described to a Yugoslav court atrocities he witnessed during the four years he spent in jails for his human rights activities.

Mr Paraga, aged 26, told how prison inmates suffered the effects of food poisoning and were attacked by inmates, epileptics, and drug addicts. It was the second day of his trial on charges of slandering the state. He said mentally disturbed inmates ate their own flesh and drug addicts bribed guards to get drugs. "One prisoner drank his own blood from a yoghurt cup after cutting himself badly with a razor."

The state has accused him of spreading false information. The heavily guarded trial is expected to end today.

Libyans expelled Court defeat

Nairobi (Reuters) — Kenya ordered five Libyan diplomats to leave the country within 14 days for engaging in activities incompatible with their status.

The five include Mr Wanis Ali Mesallay, the Chargé d'Affaires, named in Nairobi courts as the man who recruited four young Kenyans to provide Libya with political information.

The others were not named and it was unclear how many Libyans would remain at the Nairobi embassy. The latest list names six Libyan diplomats but sources said the embassy had 12 officials.

Washington — The Supreme Court has dealt a crushing defeat to opponents of capital punishment by ruling that State death penalty laws may not be attacked as unconstitutional even though statistics indicate that they may be applied in racially biased ways (Mehsin Ali writes).

By a 5-4 vote, the Justices upheld Georgia's death penalty law in a test case, after considering the statistics showing that killers of white victims draw death sentences far more frequently than killers of black victims. Nearly 1,900 people are on Death Row in the US.

Actress warns Japan

Tokyo (Reuters) — The actress Elizabeth Taylor, right, a fervent campaigner in the search for a cure for Aids, yesterday confronted the Japanese people with the danger they face from the disease.

"Eradication of Aids is the most acute problem to which we must find a solution," she told reporters.

Miss Taylor, chairman of the American Foundation for Aids Research, is on a four-day visit to Japan.

A Ministry of Health spokesman said Japan has had 38 confirmed Aids cases, 25 of whom have died.



Ordeal at sea 8 held in Harare

Honiara, Solomon Islands (Reuters) — Two Papua New Guineans have been found alive floating on sheets of polystyrene after a two-month ordeal at sea during which they lost 70 per cent of their bodyweight. Five companions died.

The men were suffering badly from exposure, dehydration and starvation when they were rescued yesterday but are expected to survive. They were forced to abandon their boat when it broke up in rough seas. They had since lived on a diet of raw fish and rainwater.

Harare — The Zimbabwe Government has for the last 12 days been holding eight young white South African men in circumstances that lead observers to believe they are suspected of being South African security agents (Jan Raath writes).

A spokesman for the South African Trade Mission here said yesterday that he was "satisfied they were bona fide tourists". He said the mission had been in touch with Zimbabwean authorities over the affair but had received no reasons for their arrest.

Colombo monks demand President's resignation



Buddhist monks, demanding the resignation of President Jayawardene of Sri Lanka after this week's bombing in Colombo which claimed 106 lives, are moved along by riot police after a brief demonstration in the city yesterday.

Setback for space weapons project

Top scientists cast doubts on Star Wars feasibility

From Christopher Thomas Washington

America's leading physicists yesterday directly challenged President Reagan's timetable for putting futuristic defensive weapons into space, saying it would take at least a decade of additional research just to determine whether the whole Star Wars idea is feasible.

The American Physical Society said that in many cases scientists did not even know whether some proposed weapons were based on sound physical principles.

It said that significant gaps remained in the scientific and engineering understanding of many issues associated with the development of directed-energy weapons, including lasers and particle beams, being considered for deployment

under the President's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The pessimistic assessment by the Society, the principal organization of US physicists, amounts to an outright rejection of the Administration's claims that sufficient information will be produced by SDI research to decide on the development of key missile defence technologies by the early 1990s.

The report could not have come at a worse time for President Reagan. Many members of Congress are already highly sceptical about the concept of Star Wars, particularly at a time of severe cuts in social programmes.

The House of Representatives has cut Mr Reagan's 1988 SDI budget request from \$5.2 billion (£3.2 billion) to \$3.5 billion. The Senate will soon consider the request and

is also bound to cut it. The two chambers will then discuss an agreed figure.

Earlier this week the Pentagon claimed that repeated congressional cuts in the SDI budget since the programme began in 1984 have already pushed some parts of the research timetable back at least two years.

The Strategic Defence Initiative Organization, the Pentagon body that administers the programme, said the projections of the American Physical Society were unduly pessimistic.

Although the Society did not flatly say that President Reagan's goal was impossible, it cited formidable technical obstacles that must be overcome to produce useful weapons and said it was highly questionable whether a Star

Wars system based in space could survive an attack on it.

The report said that the most crucial elements required for a directed-energy weapons system, the cornerstone of possible space weapons, "need improvements of several orders of magnitude".

It raised the possibility that Soviet countermeasures to US space defences may be "less difficult and costly to develop".

Despite the gloomy report and concerns about technical feasibility and superpower arms control restrictions, anti-White House supporters of the programme are pressing for an early decision on development of the first portions of a missile defence.

Reagan hopeful over Geneva meeting

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan, in a special statement marking the resumption of the Geneva intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) talks, yesterday said that prospects for an INF agreement have moved forward and that he was "hopeful but also realistic".

He said there were a number of issues, including verification, that would demand considerable hard bargaining. "But working closely with our allies in Europe and Asia, we are ready to do our part, and hope that the Soviets are returning to the table with similar resolve."

Mr Reagan said it was American and allied determination to "maintain our security, which I continue to view as indivisible, that has given us this opportunity to achieve

an historic agreement which, for the first time, would actually reduce nuclear weapons."

● GENEVA: Both the Americans and Russians said they would put forward new proposals during the current round of talks on eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe (AP reports).

The US negotiator, Mr Maynard Glittenberg, said his delegation would propose "some additional protocols during this round... on verification points." He did not elaborate.

The Soviet deputy chief negotiator, Mr Alexei Obukhov, told reporters that the Russians planned to submit a draft treaty during this round of talks, but he did not say when.

The Soviet proposal is expected to embody new initiatives made by Mr Gorbachev on shorter-range missiles, which have apparently been

The second American nuclear weapon to be exploded in less than a week was detonated on Wednesday deep beneath the surface of the Nevada test site (Our Foreign Staff writes). And in Stockholm, a Swedish seismic laboratory has recorded two underground nuclear explosions in the Soviet Union last Sunday.

come a sticking point in the talks.

Details of the two-hour session were not released by either side, in keeping with the usual pattern of secrecy. It was not announced whether the

two sides would meet again today.

● Shultz assurance: As the negotiators reconvened in Geneva, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, went out of his way to reassure West Europeans that their security was not in jeopardy (Mary Devesky writes).

Answering questions from European journalists over the Worldnet satellite link, Mr Shultz said it was hard to see how Soviet proposals for the elimination of both intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles from Europe would weaken the West militarily.

The policy of nuclear deterrence would not be undermined and the NATO policy of flexible response would continue.

15 generals go in Argentina Army changes

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

Brigadier-General José Dante Caridi was sworn in as the Argentine Army Chief of Staff yesterday, formally bringing to an end a broad restructuring of the military, designed to re-establish the chain of command following last weekend's rebellion.

Fifteen of the Army's 35 generals have been removed from active duty, the majority of them with combat troops under their direct command. The retirements are seen here as an indication of the widespread loss of discipline within the Army during the four-day crisis.

The re-organization, carried out under the direct supervision of President Alfonsín, included the appointments of new commanders for each of the four Army corps. The reshuffle included the retirement of all officers who lost even partial control of their men during the military emergency.

Among those retired was General Ernesto Arturo Alais, the commander of the Second Army Corps, who had been ordered to regain control of the Campo de Mayo, where more than 100 rebellious officers staged the insurrection. Although General Alais remained loyal to the Government, it is now clear that his men refused his orders to attack the base.

General Antonio Fichera, the former commander of the Third Army Corps, whose area of responsibility included the 19th Airborne Infantry Division based near Córdoba, Thurely, was also replaced. President Alfonsín insisted on naming General Caridi as the new Army Chief of Staff as a clear sign that his choice had not been dictated by the rebel soldiers, and in an effort to maintain the concept of vertical command in the Army.

General Caridi comes to his new post at the most difficult time for the Argentine military since their defeat in the Falklands war. His appointment has been strongly opposed by important elements within the

officer corps, who see him as one of those responsible for the military's inability to contain the human rights trials that led to the current crisis.

"The rebels wanted to establish a horizontal system of command which would have left the hierarchy without any power," said the deputy to the Defence Minister, Señor Alfredo Mosso, in a newspaper interview published yesterday. "I would define the events of last weekend as a technical coup d'état that attempted to remove all substance and strength from the top commanders."

In another development the Argentine Supreme Court ordered the country's Federal Appeals Courts on Wednesday to submit a full report on the status of human rights cases in their jurisdictions within 10 days.

The order is expected to halt temporarily any further trials of military officers until the Supreme Court can rule on the concept of "due obedience", a ruling that the Government is hoping will lead to a reduction in the number of human rights trials. At stake is the extent to which middle- and lower-ranking police and military officers can be held responsible for illegal acts carried out during the war against terrorism under orders from their superiors.

It seems clear that the events of last weekend will lead to a limit being placed on the trials involving more than 200 officers, thereby partially satisfying one of the key demands of the rebels. The Government insists that there were no negotiations with the mutinous officers and on Wednesday the Defence Minister, Señor Horacio Jauregui, again reiterated that the Government was not considering an amnesty law.

In his newspaper interview, Señor Mosso admitted that the demands of the rebels, now officially estimated to have numbered between 100 and 120 men, had touched a sensitive chord within the armed forces.

American leaders for 'drug summit'

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

President Reagan is to take part in a summit conference of Latin American presidents later this year to discuss his campaign against the international drug trade, it was announced here yesterday.

Although neither the date nor the venue were announced, it is thought that the summit is most likely to be held in Bogotá, with President Barco of Colombia acting as host.

Colombia, centre of the South American drug trade, is the source of 80 per cent of the cocaine and 40 per cent of the marijuana entering the United States, according to the US Drug Enforcement Agency, as well as the increasingly large shipments of cocaine reaching Europe.

The "drug summit" was announced in telexed messages to the Presidential Palace and the US Embassy here by two US Senators who recently visited Colombia to discuss the drug problem with local officials, and who later

reported to President Reagan. Although the drug trade is the main motive for the meeting, participants will also discuss other topics including Latin America's foreign debt and economic development.

Apart from Colombia, the other principle countries involved in the cocaine trade are Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and, increasingly, Brazil, where the coca plant is cultivated on a large scale. Coca base is ferried into Colombia where it is then refined into pure cocaine in laboratories.

But the drug trade affects virtually all Latin American countries in some way or another, whether by smuggling or in the "washing" of drug money.

Latin-American presidents are likely to tell Mr Reagan that the drug trade fuels corruption and violence in the region, and that evidence in Colombia and Peru, in particular, that drug racketeers finance and run arms to guerrilla groups.

Honecker dismisses Soviet-style reforms in 'no change' speech

East Berlin (Reuters) — Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, dashed any ideas of Soviet-style reforms yesterday, laying out an orthodox political and economic line for the future of Moscow's key frontline ally.

The East German leader delivered his "no-change" message to a congress of the country's trade unions just two weeks after the Czechoslovakian leader, Mr Gustav Husak, told a similar meeting in Prague that he viewed Soviet reforms as a model.

Herr Honecker aged 74, devoted much of his 70-minute speech to listing the country's economic successes since he took over leadership of the Communist Party 15 years ago.

"We want to continue this course with further success... The GDR (East Germany) has an efficiently-functioning system of economic and social

planning," he said. He added that the last one-and-a-half decades had seen far-reaching changes.

His comments were clearly aimed at dampening any speculation that the reforms of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, could lead to changes here.

Herr Honecker indicated he considered that economic reforms started by Mr Gorbachev had already been carried out here. Democratic and open discussion, he said, were already a reality in party and trade union life.

The Prague and East German leaderships, which both had close ties with Mr Gorbachev's predecessor, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, have appeared reluctant to follow Moscow's political reforms.

But early this month Mr Husak gave tentative approval to Kremlin changes as a model for his own country, whose

industrial production has lagged badly in recent years. East Germany, expecting a visit by Mr Gorbachev next month, ranks as the strongest Soviet Bloc economy.

Herr Honecker's speech to 3,000 trade union delegates dwelt on rises in the standard of living, progress in developing high technology and reforms in industrial investment planned for the beginning of next year. There was no criticism of areas of the economy, such as the crucial chemicals industry, where last year's output dropped well short of planning.

Herr Honecker called on West Germany to press for the removal of nuclear weapons, especially medium-range missiles from Europe. The removal of US Pershing 2 and cruise missiles would allow Moscow to get rid of new short-range weapons based in East Germany, he said.

He said that about 150 dissidents were released from prison or exile by decrees of the Supreme Soviet.

Tass said: "Koryagin is leaving for Switzerland for permanent residence." No other information was given.

The Soviet Government began a review of sentences on charges of anti-Soviet activity earlier this year and Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that about 150 dissidents were released from prison or exile by decrees of the Supreme Soviet.

South Africa's general election campaign

Independents see votes in Afrikaner heartland

From Michael Hornsby Stellenbosch

Dr Esther Lategan, an attractive dark-haired businesswoman and mother of three children in her early 40s, is carrying the flag of the independent cause in Stellenbosch, seat of South Africa's oldest Afrikaans-speaking university, in the whites-only general election on May 6.

Her hope is that the students who jeered and heckled President Botha on Wednesday night, when he spoke at a meeting in the town hall in support of the ruling National Party's (NP) candidate, represent only the visible ripple on the surface of a much deeper liberal Afrikaner disenchantment with the Government.

More than 60 per cent of Stellenbosch's 13,000 white voters are students at the university or former undergraduates who have gone down but are still registered to vote there. It is these youthful hearts and minds that Dr Lategan needs to capture if she is to topple Mr Piet Marais, the incumbent MP.

She insists that she has "a realistic chance to win", but it is a tall order. At a by-election in 1982, Mr Marais polled 7,009 votes against 1,380 for the ultra-liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP). 399 for the right-wing Conservative Party (CP) and 554 for the small middle-of-the-road New Republic Party (NRP).

In accordance with their "alliance strategy", the PFP and the NRP are not putting up any candidates on May 6, and have instructed their supporters to vote for Dr Lategan. The CP has been replaced by the even more right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), which can expect to pick up some conservative votes.

Dr Lategan, the daughter of a former government MP, was educated at Stellenbosch where her husband is a professor of theology, and voted for the NP at the last election in 1981. She is typical of the young, urbanized and intelligent Afrikaners who have become deeply unhappy with the pace and content of reform.

"I supported the Government in 1981 because I thought P.W. (Botha) was serious about reform, that the tricameral Parliament would give real political rights to Indians and Coloureds, and that the extension of these to blacks was the next item on the agenda," Dr Lategan said.

"Instead, it is clear that what the Government calls 'consensus politics' simply means the maintenance of a white veto. The final constitutional

model must emerge from negotiations. But the right climate for negotiations must first be created by scrapping all apartheid laws and freeing black politics."

Dr Lategan says this means releasing Mr Nelson Mandela from jail, legalizing the African National Congress and giving them a chance to substitute negotiation for guerrilla warfare.

In this, she goes rather further than her fellow independent, Dr Denis Worrall, the former South African ambassador in London, who is contesting the neighbouring constituency of Helderberg.

On the face of it, there is not much difference between Dr Lategan's views and those of the English-oriented PFP. Her decision to stand as an independent is largely a matter of tactics. A PFP candidate could never win in Stellenbosch, whereas an Afrikaner, articulating the changing mood in Afrikanerdom, might just do so.

Earlier this year some 300 Stellenbosch academics signed a statement of support for the independent candidates, who also include Mr Wynand Malan in the Johannesburg constituency of Randburg. Just over a year ago a group of students at the university defied President Botha by holding talks with the ANC in Zimbabwe.

Stellenbosch University has always been the source of the most innovative Afrikaner thinking. President Botha, the Chancellor of the university, is one of the very few Afrikaner political leaders not to have been educated there.

The town itself — a place of beauty with its whitewashed gabled houses and oak-shaded streets — was

founded and named after Simon van der Stiel, who governed the Cape for the Dutch East India Company from 1678 to 1699.

He was mixed blood (his mother was a Mauritian Indian), and Cape Afrikaners have always been obsessed with race than the Boers who settled the interior.

When Mr Botha came to re-model Dr Verwoerd's policy of "separate development" — considered reformist in its day — Stellenbosch, effectively the NP's private think-tank, provided the intellectual engine-house. Until very recently only a few maverick academics here disputed that the NP had to be the vehicle through which change was effected.

Hence the shock effect of this week's declaration by Professor Sam Pieterse, a former close adviser to the Government who now leads the academic revolt, that the NP is incapable of reform and that only if it "disintegrates will the opportunity arise for a democratic take-over of the Government by a truly reform-oriented party."

A declaration released yesterday by nine leading academics from Afrikaner universities other than Stellenbosch challenged Professor Pieterse's view, appealing to voters not to "turn their back" on a reform-minded government.

What Professor Pieterse and the independents are hoping is that they will do well enough on May 6 to provide the catalyst for the formation of a new multi-racial reformist party which will be in a strong position to contest the next election in 1989, when (unless the constitution is amended) all three houses of Parliament (white, Coloured and Indian) must go to the polls.

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1. The first step in the process of creating a new product is to identify a market need. This involves conducting market research to understand what consumers want and what problems they are facing. Once a need is identified, the next step is to develop a concept that addresses this need. This often involves brainstorming and prototyping.

2. The second step is to develop a business plan. This document outlines the financial aspects of the business, including the costs of production, distribution, and marketing. It also includes a sales forecast and a break-even analysis. A business plan is essential for securing funding from investors or lenders.

3. The third step is to create a prototype. This is a physical model of the product that allows you to test its functionality and appearance. Prototyping can be done in a variety of ways, from simple 3D printing to more complex CNC machining. The goal is to create a version of the product that is close enough to the final design to be useful for testing and feedback.

4. The fourth step is to conduct a pilot run. This involves producing a small batch of the product to test in the market. This allows you to gather feedback from real customers and make any necessary adjustments to the design or production process. A pilot run is also a good way to test your distribution and marketing channels.

5. The final step is to launch the product. This involves a full-scale production run and a marketing campaign to promote the product. It's important to have a clear strategy for how you will reach your target audience and how you will measure the success of the launch.

With the exception of the 1990s, when the number of publications increased, the number of publications in the field of law and economics has been declining since the 1970s. But this does not mean that the field is dying. On the contrary, the number of publications in the field of law and economics has been increasing since the 1990s. This is a clear indication that the field is still very much alive and well.

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As tension rises on the border Israelis respond with threats to PLO's new mood of self-confidence

Jets shower menacing leaflets on villages of southern Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Sidon

The Palestinians were nervous after the Israeli night raid, and the moment the high whistles of the jets was heard again over Sidon yesterday morning, their anti-aircraft gunners in Ein Helwe began to speckle the bright sky over the camp with small, black patches of ragged smoke. But this was a special kind of raid.

A few hours earlier, Israeli Cobra helicopter gunships had fired salvos of rockets at three drab concrete buildings in Ein Helwe, all used by Mr Yasser Arafat's erstwhile opponents in the PLO.

But yesterday morning, for almost an hour across southern Lebanon, the jet pilots showered the population with leaflets containing a series of threats from the northern commander of the Israeli Army. They specifically warned that, if attacks on Galilee continued, the people of southern Lebanon "will not be able to live in peace".

The papers, which were signed only "IDF (Israel Defence Force) Commander of the Northern Front", were quite open in their intent. "Remember the events that preceded 1982," they said ominously; "no one in southern Lebanon will have forgotten the bloody results of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon."

If calm did not prevail in the settlements of northern Galilee, the leaflets continued, then "the population of Nabatieh and Tyre as well as the whole region will not be able to live in peace. Keep terrorists away from your villages because this is the best for you."

What was on the Israelis' minds yesterday was quite simple: the containment of the PLO after its most recent guerrilla raid across the Lebanese border, and especially after Mr Arafat's newly-pro-

claimed Palestinian unity in Algiers. Nor were the Israelis the only ones to be exercised on this subject. In his first-floor office scarcely a mile from Ein Helwe, Mr Mustafa Saad, the sightless Sunni Muslim militia leader who controls Sidon, was yesterday speculating ruefully on the results of the Algiers summit.

"I hope it will have no effect on us here," he said. "I hope this, but what I hope and what they (the PLO) plan is a different matter. We really wish that nothing will happen here. We talk to the Palestinians in the camp — we are democratic people. But they must not carry weapons outside the camp. It is absolutely forbidden. And the Palestinians must stay inside their camp, not outside, their camp."

PLO guerrillas, in fact, still hold a row of hills east of Sidon, outside their camps, since they fear that the Shia Muslim Amal militia will use the high ground to shell Ein Helwe if they withdraw. Mr Saad has already interposed his own Sunni "Popular Liberation Army" between Amal and the PLO, in the hope that he can restore a status quo.

"We have given the Palestinians guarantees that they will not be shelled from the hills," he said. "We hope that Amal accepts the policy of our movement, to keep the situation peaceful here. If it does this — if there will be no problem."

Mr Saad talks in a low, depressed voice for he has little to be happy about. The Saad family has deep roots not only in Sidon but in the history of the Lebanese conflict. Many Lebanese regard the assassination of his father, Maarouf, in 1975 as the start

of the civil war. Mr Saad was himself the victim of an assassination attempt in 1984 when a bomb, for which he still holds the Israelis and their militia allies responsible, exploded outside his home, killing his daughter, Natasha, and almost totally blinding him.

Today, Mr Saad speaks slowly from a ruined face, a pair of dark glasses covering his large, unmovable eyes. "We are a patriotic people here," he said. "We are not just Sunni — we represent all people. There are six Shia families living here in the same building as my office. We have Christians and even a few Druze. We are nationalists, not sectarian." Even the Syrian Army could enter Sidon by agreement, he said.

And that, perhaps, is what may ultimately occur if Mr Saad cannot contain the Palestinians. Even the Israelis have raised few objections to the presence of a small unit of Syrian special forces troops on the Awali river bridge just north of the city, on the very stretch of roadway on which Israeli soldiers maintained their own checkpoint until February 1985.

But the Syrians are making no complaints about Israel's discomfort along the Lebanese border, which may be why the Israeli leaflets were worded so carefully yesterday.

Printed in Arabic on pink paper, but bearing the crest of the Israeli Army at the top, they urged the Lebanese to use their memories. "Don't forget the calamities brought upon you by the Palestinians, who cared nothing for your welfare," they added. "The IDF does not want to bring destruction upon you. Your fate is in your own hands. May God guide your steps to the welfare of all."

Beirut Cabinet discusses economy

From Our Own Correspondent, Beirut

With ambitious sentiments but few financial details, all but one of Lebanon's mutually hostile cabinet members met for the first time in seven months on the Beirut Frontline yesterday to examine ways of halting the economic collapse which the Government's impotence has helped to bring about.

Mr Hussein al-Husseini, the Parliament Speaker, announced

later that Mr Rashid Karami's Cabinet had agreed to launch a scheme of state-subsidized medicine and to set up a department to care for the one million Lebanese who have been displaced during 13 years of civil war.

Given the three-day strike which Muslim and Christian communities started yesterday to protest against worsening living standards,

the nine ministers who met in the Parliament on the Green Line between the Christian and Muslim sectors of Beirut could scarcely have done less. They demanded the re-opening of Beirut International airport, which closed on February 1 when the national airline lost its insurance cover, and the surrender of private harbours to government control.

At the moment, talk in the kibbutz centres on what every one refers to as "the war" when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1983, with the aim of destroying the Palestinian state within a state. In the present climate of mounting tension everyone seems to be wondering if "the war" was really worth it. Nobody seems



Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, during a visit yesterday to the home of Mr Arafat, the PLO leader, in the West Bank town of Kalkila. Two weeks ago an Israeli settler was killed near by when her car was petrol-bombed.

Frontline kibbutz feels the heat of war

From Ian Murray, Kibbutz Misgav-am Galilee

A couple of days ago Mr Josef Abas checked his gun and the military equipment he kept at home. "When things start to hot up," he always does that, almost instinctively.

Things have been hotting up recently in this isolated area along the western edge of the Galilee panhandle. Last Sunday three Palestinians cut through the wire fence just along the road at Kibbutz Manara and died in an ambush they prepared for Israeli soldiers.

Katynusha rockets are landing regularly around here. For security reasons no one will say exactly where, for fear of helping those who fire them from across the valley in Lebanon to get a taste for these erratic missiles.

At the moment, talk in the kibbutz centres on what every one refers to as "the war" when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1983, with the aim of destroying the Palestinian state within a state. In the present climate of mounting tension everyone seems to be wondering if "the war" was really worth it. Nobody seems

anxious to see a repeat invasion.

Mr Abas has lived here for 10 years and can recognize the signs of the kibbutz's move from a peaceful village to a place where they feel united against the common danger. The men are fussing about checking equipment and making sure everything is ready to withstand an attack. Everyone is glad that

the kibbutz shelters, pretty camouflaged with window boxes, have just had a new coat of paint. "Living here we are just soldiers on holiday," Mr Abas said.

Misgav-am means "a high place overlooking a valley" and Kibbutz Misgav-am is a spectacular view of Mount Harmon in Syria and of Lebanon in the valley below.

Until seven years ago the kibbutz fence marked the border. Then, one night, five Palestinians cut through it and captured the children's house, where six young children used to sleep together in the best kibbutz tradition.

But the people are used to being in the front line and are in part closer to the members of the kibbutz on the basis of their commitment to Zionism. "We are the first line of defence of this country," Mr Abas explained. "We are part of the defence of this state and if we leave it would be impossible for the Army to run things on its own. We believe it is not enough to want to live on a kibbutz to come here. You must have a little bit more."

Mr Peter Mostafay decided

Egypt plea to Algiers meeting

From A Correspondent, Cairo

President Mubarak of Egypt has said that the Palestinians must maintain ties with Egypt, despite calls by radicals at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers to break links because of Egypt's relations with Israel.

Speaking to reporters after opening a new session of Parliament, President Mubarak said the Palestinians could not go back on their relations with Israel.

Egypt, he said, was the leading Arab country. Mr Mubarak indicated that it would be useful to wait until the PNC meeting had finished before drawing any further conclusions.

Earlier, in his speech to Parliament, Mr Mubarak said Egypt was not shifting its allegiance from the United States to the Soviet Union, as suggested recently by an Egyptian newspaper.

He denied reports in the right-wing *al-Wakef* to the effect that Egypt was changing allegiance from Washington to Moscow, because the latter, unlike the former, responded favourably to Egyptian requests for debt relief.

Mr Mubarak did not name the Soviet Union, the United States or the newspaper but he was obviously referring to them. "It was not difficult for those who wrote this nonsense to realize that Egypt does not waver drawing back and forth in its policy."

The Soviet Union has reportedly agreed to reschedule Egyptian debts of \$3,900 million to be repaid over 25 years, including a grace period of six years. Egypt is having difficulty in persuading the United States to reduce its military aid of about \$4.5 billion.

As he emerged from the assembly hall, Mr Mubarak was asked about his delayed visit to the United States, which was said to have been postponed indefinitely because of Cairo's dissatisfaction with Washington's refusal to reschedule the debts.

He said: "Contacts are in progress with them; there are telephone calls and other communications."

On internal affairs, Mr Mubarak said that he would use "no leniency, no laxity and no truce" in dealing with any group that disrupts the course of democracy.

Poll surge by Jakarta Opposition

Jakarta (Reuters) — Early unofficial returns in the Indonesian election yesterday showed the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party gaining against the ruling Golkar Party in polling in the capital.

A spokesman for the Democratic Party, which campaigned on individual rights and adopted the portrait of the charismatic late President Sukarno, said that in Jakarta the Party appeared to be either leading Golkar or in second place at many polling stations.

In the last election, the Democrats won only 15 per cent in the capital and 8 per cent nationwide.

Palme lead

Stockholm (AP) — A Swedish woman belonging to an ultra-right group was seen at the same cinema as Mr Olof Palme on the night he was assassinated and is sought by police in the US for questioning, newspapers said.

Japan quake

Tokyo (AP) — An earthquake hit northern Japan, triggering automatic shutdowns at the nuclear plants but causing no serious damage or injuries, the authorities said.

Doctors strike

Oslo (Reuters) — Most of Norway's 12,000 doctors staged a three-hour strike for increases in private sector charges.

Nato exercise

Cateau, Belgium (AP) — Nato says an exercise named "Dragon Hammer 87" will take place from May 3 to 15 in the Mediterranean.

Envoy recalled

Ankara (Reuters) — Turkey has recalled its Ambassador from Washington for consultations over proposed cuts in US aid, officials said.

Row boils over

New York (AP) — A man who had not spoken to his neighbour in three years shot him dead then committed suicide, police said.

Cow's stay

Gibraltar — The authorities have given a stay of execution to the Rock's only cow, Louisa, brought into the colony illegally.

Japan-US trade dispute

Tokyo television stokes the emotions

From David Watts, Tokyo

On prime night-time television news a leading Japanese commentator asked the US Secretary of Agriculture if America's demands for access to the Japanese market for its rice sought to destroy the livelihood of three-and-a-half million Japanese rice farmers.

Ignoring a considerable body of opinion in Japan that rice farming has been coddled for too long, a government policy which seeks to reduce the amount of rice acreage and consumers who pay up to 20 times the American price for their rice, the commentator chose to stoke emotions on an issue which has near-mythological power in Japan.

Mr Taro Kimura could well have argued that Japan is not alone in protecting its agriculture, that the rural sector is still the principal source of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's power, or that few governments are willing to sacrifice their own in the interests of international harmony.

Instead, he reverted to encouraging the idea, perpetuated in some popular books, that the United States will no longer tolerate Japan's power and must destroy it — as if the import of modest amounts of rice would achieve that dubious end.

Fortunately, debate and the opinions expressed over the last few weeks of trade friction do not always stoop to such crude levels, but the NHK television network programme which the commentator hosts is very influential.

In many areas the strong emotionalism of many Japanese, and the feeling that they are different, are never far from the surface: all the country's phenomenal economic strength has not swept away the

basic feelings of insecurity in dealing with the rest of the world, feelings which are reinforced by trade protests from all sides which to many seem unfair.

Worldly Japanese see a need for change, but for the majority in a society which prizes consensus and loyalty to the group, the old Japanese saying still applies: the nail that sticks out gets hammered down. Few with the influence to change the consensus see the need or are willing to leave the security of the group to speak out.

In society, politics and industry the older generation still rules. It is not so for younger figures to express themselves too openly. But leaders must

Japan's special envoy in the US is carrying a urgent message of the need for immediate action to redress the trade imbalance (David Watts writes from Tokyo). Mr Shintaro Abe has found a severe attitude in Congress which does not point to a resolution of the problem before Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, visits Washington next week.

obtain a measure of consensus before proceeding on any new course, a relatively simple matter when dealing with something that threatens the Japanese family as a whole, but extremely difficult once different elements adopt positions which prevent unanimity.

"I have mixed feelings about trade friction because I'm one of the older generation," said a middle-aged executive. "I'm glad that we have succeeded in developing to the point where we have a trade surplus. We constantly ran a trade deficit until the late 1960s. But now we've done it too much. We have a habit of

overdoing things, so we need to adjust. We must realize that the huge imbalance in our trade is a source of disruption in the world economy."

But the problems are mixed also: the responsibility of the US. Some people say about 50 per cent of the US deficit is due to the American budget deficit, but they're not doing anything about that in the US. I'm irritated that the response in the US is too emotional.

"Japan is isolated and Japanese don't like that. We are the third-largest investors in the US, but we don't hear anything about all the British and Dutch investment. All you hear about is the Japanese investment."

Japanese rice and beef taste better, says Mrs Yasuyo Sugura, a housewife in her 60s. "And if I think about my daily diet and shopping there's no reason to buy foreign products. Japan should open its markets more to other foreign companies," said Mr Ryosuke Mizuma, who works for a foreign financial firm. "Japan is now strangling itself. It is not only suffering criticism and economic sanctions. From the global view not only Japan but other nations suffer from the so-called closed Japanese market."

Mr Tohru Ohki admits there may be non-tariff barriers in ministry regulations "which make even us Japanese mad", but as an engineer he thinks one of the main reasons for trade friction is the uncompetitive nature of foreign offerings. "Even with the current exchange rate, when the yen is so strong, prices are still too high and after-sales service is not adequate. A Japanese company thinks first of all of after-sales service in selling to a foreign country."

where the remains of a second alleged victim of the BCC, Hedayat Eslamnia, a former high-ranking Iranian official, were later found.

Hunt, who came to court each day in a dark, pin-striped business suit and showed little emotion during testimony, is due to stand trial for that murder later this year, along with three other members of the BCC, including Mr Eslamnia's son.

The defence had claimed that Levin had engineered his own disappearance to avoid prosecution for fraud.

Two defence witnesses had testified that they saw a man in Arizona who they were certain was Levin. Hunt did not testify in his own defence and was found guilty of murder despite claims by his ex-girlfriend and his mother that he was at home on the night of the alleged murder.

Strikes threaten holidays in Spain

From A Correspondent, Madrid

Strikes in Spain are going to carry on, upsetting holiday makers right through May and into early June, as a result of a decision taken by Spanish airlines and railway unions to continue their protests until pay demands are met.

To add to the disruption, air traffic controllers are joining in for the first time.

They have announced stop-

pages on some days in May. The strikes in the transport sector have been going on since the 20th, and the railway unions will also be on strike on May 21, 22 and 23. The airlines will also be on strike on May 21, 22 and 23. The strikes will also be on strike on May 21, 22 and 23.

Prison go slow. Staff at the main prison hospitals in Ma-

drid and several cities in southern Spain, including Seville, Cadiz and Malaga, began a go-slow yesterday in protest at conditions for treating AIDS patients, and to back demands for stricter health controls.

The go-slow coincided with a written protest by 30 AIDS patients in a prison hospital in Madrid who have asked for parole because they are suffering from a fatal disease.

Howe told of damage over treaty

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Britain's decision not to sign the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty emerged yesterday as the one significant point of difference in meetings between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and the Australian Government.

Sir Geoffrey, on the second stage of his Thailand-Australia-New Zealand trip, arrived here from Sydney yesterday and went straight into talks with Mr Bill Hayden, his opposite number, and Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister.

It is evident that the two governments now have few disagreements on the need for agricultural pricing reform, both inside and outside the European Community.

However, Mr Hayden said he was disappointed that Britain had not signed the Rarotonga Treaty, and said Whitehall had not appreciated the damaging effect this would have among the island states of the South Pacific.

He told a press conference yesterday that he had urged Britain to reconsider signing the treaty — which excludes the use, testing and storage of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific.

British officials said Sir Geoffrey had made it clear that Britain's attitude was dictated by its European position rather than South Pacific orientation, but that it would observe the protocols of the treaty.

Agricultural reform is another important issue for Canberra. Mr Hayden said that subsidised US and EEC sales were causing an annual loss in revenue of between 10 and 15 per cent for Australia's farmers.

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SPECTRUM

Hook, line and Pincher

Tim Bishop

As Mrs Thatcher confirmed yesterday that spymaster Sir Maurice Oldfield had been a homosexual, Brian James found the man who raised the alarm on a Scottish river bank, putting out more bait

At the end of a week in which he has flushed another high-ranking officer out of the thickets of the intelligence service, and into the light, it was absolutely no surprise to come upon Harry Chapman Pincher game fishing in Scotland.

He does, after all, give his recreations in *Who's Who* as "ferrying in Whitehall" and "bolting politicians". Pincher, said one of his coterie of Whitehall contacts is "a huntin' shootin' fishin' chap who has elevated mole-hunting into a field sport."

Pincher gave a great bark of pleased laughter when I passed on that remark. He was visibly less keen on the verdict from another of the Establishment: "Pincher? A patriot no doubt. For that reason, I hope he never has to face the damage he has done."

Pincher bristled: "Stuff and nonsense. Peppering a few blown-up politicians. Shown up the leaks in departments that should have been tight. But that's not damage to the country. Don't regret a single thing I've found out about and printed."

What Chapman Pincher has found out and printed, as defence correspondent and "spymaster" of the *Daily Express* — and on into his retirement — has filled 34 scrap books and provided the database for three books of intelligence service revelations, including the first claim that Roger Hollis, the former MI5 chief, was a KGB plant. A fourth book is due next month and it is from the first serialized episode that the nugget that Maurice Oldfield, former head of MI6, was a homosexual with a particular penchant for young male partners, came glinting to the light.

As over his shoulder great salmon leapt and sparkled, Pincher yesterday set himself to bring down a few of the covey of birds put up by that little bombshell.

"Look here, this yarn in your newspaper that the Oldfield scandal was leaked to me by MI5 to settle old scores with MI6 is nonsense. So is the idea that it is all linked to the Peter Wright case. Let me tell you the whole story — or as much as I dare."

"In 1982, the crime correspondent of my paper told me that the Special Branch had investigated Oldfield as a possible homosexual. I was horrified, because I knew him as a friend. But not



The catcher in the Highlands: Pincher yesterday — "oh yes, a great many of my scoops were given to me at the end of a day's shooting, or from a chap just along the river bank"

surprised. I'd often asked other MI6 people 'Maurice, is he a queer d'you think?'

"Thing is, he was just too damn affable with young men. Waiters, that sort of person. All the staff in the restaurant where he first took me to lunch knew who he was and what he did. Struck me as damned odd. I asked my wife, women have an instinct about these things, but she said no; Maurice, poor chap, was just neuter."

Pincher took the Special Branch suspicions to other people in the secret services. "At top level. But I'm sure they knew already. At least no one said, 'Maurice? My God, I have seen documents since that said my warning was noted.'"

That was all? "That was all. I didn't pursue it myself. No substantiation. And I had not the resources. Anyway Maurice was a friend."

But two years ago the matter came up again when Oldfield was serving in Northern Ireland. "One of his Special Branch protectors — yes, minders — found homosexual pornography in his flat. The Branch kept an eye out and this time got proof. This time it went to Scotland Yard, then the Home Secretary and then to Margaret Thatcher. How do I know this? I will not tell you — it will take a government inquiry, pressure like that for me to produce my proof."

Does he know the Prime Minister's reaction? "No idea. But she would have been shaken. She was a friend of Oldfield's. I know,

because I introduced them, when she was leader of the Opposition. Maurice felt she should be briefed and I was asked to bring them together."

"None of this is hearsay. Coffee table gossip. I know these people. I've seen the papers. I know the facts. I could have written it two years ago and made a lot of money. The reason I tell the story now is that my book is about the motivations of traitors. Homosexuality is an important factor and knowing what I knew it would have been an act of professional incompetence not to have brought Oldfield in. But Maurice was not a traitor, of that I'm convinced. He would have reported any KGB threat to expose him and resigned. How a man with this awful weakness was permitted to reach this level in this sensitive service is inconceivable."

This had been a fairly typical conversation with Chapman Pincher, glimpses into an underworld made familiar by such as Le Carré, yet now almost casually peppered with the known and famous. Macmillan and Mountbatten crop up in other Pincher anecdotes which reveal much — but not quite who is using whom.

Pincher says his scoops stem from "the luck of being borne into a charmed circle." By this, the wartime missile expert means that the brother officers that were half-colonels when he left to become a defence correspondent rose to rank and thus knowledge, "which on occasions they would share."

A sort of confirmation comes from General Sir William Jackson, a former military intelligence expert: "Pincher was a confounded nuisance. But couldn't help admiring him. The thing is things were done to the services by our masters that the brass would want known. So they'd leak to this chap knowing he wasn't to be trusted. Never did it myself — but it was done. Have to say he was right most of the time."

Professor M R D Foot is less charitable. Foot, an ex-intelligence officer and official secret service historian, says: "My view on the man would be sulphuric. The stuff he produced on the intelligence services was almost utterly inaccurate. Don't doubt his loyalty, but he was woefully used. Effectively, he was being dealt the stuff of office politics, told never the whole truth but enough to score points for one side in some very nasty fighting. And the fact is he was like the chaps wandering in an 18th century powder magazine in nailed boots carrying a handful Lucifer matches."

'I don't regret a single thing I've found out about and printed'

You really have to ask who let him in.

"He has succeeded in convincing a lot of people that Hollis and/or Oldfield were buddies. The only consequence of that is to weaken the country's trust in its services. There is a Latin tag which says: Who benefits? The answer in this case can only be the KGB. Pincher, unknowingly I'm sure, became their valuable ally." Is this the Professor's view? Or that of Britain's Secret Service? "Absolutely no comment."

On the position of Pincher, the user or the used, Lord Rawlinson stands neatly balanced. As a QC, he led the defence in the D-Notice trial of the sixties when Pincher and his newspaper were flayed by Wilson's government after his revelation about cable vetting as Solicitor-General before and Attorney-General after, Lord Rawlinson remembers "being very annoyed by so many late-night telephone calls about another War Office leak or intelligence scandal and I would say 'Oh God, not that Pincher again!'"

"He is an exceptionally able journalist and it is undeniable he was a thorn in many administrations. I can't doubt his access to strikingly valid information. His sources? That had us darkly wondering many, many times. "But he also had a great sense of

the dramatic which sometimes coloured his better judgement. And his style of using bits without knowing, without ever being able to know, the whole picture undoubtedly did us and the country damage. He trusted his heart — perhaps a shade too much."

Pincher's new book is about the motivation of traitors. No mystery attaches to Pincher's motivation, according to Sir Edward Pickering one of his finest editors at the *Daily Express*: "Simply the chap loved to delve. His reputation was made long before the spy stuff by a general knowledge series called *Fun Finding Out*. And for three decades in Fleet Street he never stopped having fun poking about. He had that sort of scientific bird-dog mind."

If Pincher used his old service colleagues well, according to Pickering, he later deliberately traded on other assets like his knowledge of shooting and fishing. "He turned his back on Fleet Street, El Vino's and all that, was a complete loner in the trade."

But his shooting parties, where the Dukes and the Generals and the good and the greatly suspected would mingle, became quite famous. Pincher confirms this between casts at a salmon: "Oh yes, a great many of my scoops were given me as we walked back at the end of a day's shooting, or came from the chap just along the bank. It was very fitting really, sniffing out spies is another sort of chase."

The IDA's financial package included grants of 50 per cent towards the cost of employing 100 Irish people, assisting with paying for the studio's premises and help with training. "We are producing the highest class animation, the kind of stuff Walt Disney can no longer do," says Sullivan, the 70-year-old managing director of the studio. Don Bluth, a 49-year-old ex-Disney is the "creative genius" of the operation.

Officials of the IDA are enthusiastic about the prospects of one of their more unusual projects. Somewhat sheepishly they explain that they believe the movie world suits the Irish temperament, with its linguistic talent and artistic streak. A spokesman says that it "opens up a whole new area". Sullivan believes the move to be "like a crusade. We want to see Ireland as the home of the world's finest quality animation studios. In three years I'm hoping the Irish themselves will be producing the films. That's the gamble we are working on. But we are here to stay."

Richard Ford

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

—Portfolio Gold—

£12,000 to be won

The day before yesterday: Rosemary with her brother, the future President

The secret Kennedy

At 21, Rosemary was "the most beautiful Kennedy." But her looks hid a dark secret and the "solution" to her problem turned a tragedy into a catastrophe that was to haunt Joe Kennedy, head of the Kennedy dynasty, for the rest of his life

The pedalling gourmet

Healthy helpings for busy bodies

Drink deep Down Under

The case for sunny glasses

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Stone walls do not necessarily a prison make ...

England's felons could serve their sentences, but avoid jail, if a novel American system of house arrest is introduced in this country

When Barry Ryan walked out of his Long Island home to visit his girlfriend, his legs reported him to the police. A radio signal from a transmitter strapped to one ankle alerted the Probation Department computer that he had broken his house arrest. After the police read the print-out, they took him to prison.

Ryan, a 25-year-old who was convicted last December of attempted petty larceny, is one of the first criminals to serve time at home under a new electronic detention system introduced in Nassau county, New York state. The court ordered him to stay in his own house at all times except when going to work. To check on his movements, he had to wear the transmitter 24

hours a day. It sent signals down his home telephone line, and a typical morning print-out would read: "Left home 8am, valid." But twice in a month the computer reported: "Left home, violation."

Police did not suspect him of intending to commit a crime — the early morning visits were "for social reasons" — but the sentence for violating this novel form of arrest was 90 days in jail.

The "electronic bell and chain" has been criticized by some legal experts as being too lenient, but applauded by others as a way of relieving jail-overcrowding while saving taxpayers' money. Yesterday, the Home Affairs Select Committee recommended that the Home Office



should study the American's use of electronic tagging to see what application it might have in England and Wales.

The Nassau experiment is only one alternative to imprisonment now being considered throughout America, where the prison population has risen to a record 529,000, a total that is growing

by 1,000 a week. Compulsory community service is one alternative. In the past, this was usually ordered for vandals or young, first-time offenders guilty of misdemeanours, but these days even cocaine dealers facing 15 years in jail have been sent instead to work with the homeless and the mentally handicapped.

One such dealer, Jim Guerra, has spent 400 hours over 30 months raising money to provide entertainers for the critically ill in Dallas hospitals. "I love the job," he says. "I'll probably continue it after the sentence is up."

More and more judges are ordering those convicted of non-violent crimes to stay at home, or in half-way houses, with permission only to go directly to work and back each day. They may also have to pay a stiff fine, and suffer a short, sharp taste of prison.

Proponents of house arrest

look forward to the day when prison is reserved for career criminals and the violent. They point out that offenders, instead of costing up to £20,000 a year to retain in prison cells, can continue working, earning money to pay fines or their victims, and support families who might otherwise have to go on welfare.

About 30 states have funded "intensive" probation supervision, in which participants are confined to their homes, required to pay restitution to victims and receive appropriate counselling. A man sentenced in 1984 to 15 years for burglary was released after a short spell in prison and ordered to observe a home curfew from 10pm to 6am. He had to remain at home for 30 months, at a cost to the state of about £6 a day,

less than a third of the prison cost.

Some states have decided, however, on the much older and simpler deterrent: shame. They order drunken drivers, for example, to carry a bumper sticker proclaiming their conviction. In one county in Oregon, felons have been offered the option of publishing apologies in the local newspaper.

It is not yet clear to American criminologists how effective these alternatives are. One researcher found that home confinement gave convicts a far better chance than prison, with only about 20 per cent reverting to crime, but there is no agreement on how large a fine and how much enforced confinement should equal a prison sentence.

Michael Binyon

david morris

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11 Reckoning (5)
12 Henry IV Welsh rebel leader (4,9)
15 Aspire (5)
16 Shun in protest (7)
20 "Large city" (3,5)
21 Heelless slipper (4)
22 Moderate (6)
23 Outcome (6)

DOWN

1 Rice dish (7)
2 Track (5)
3 Abeyance (5)
4 Light breeze (4)
5 Finger inflammation (7)
6 Close, sticky (5)

10 Rail truck (5)
11 Hot whisky drink (5)
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Teenage agony art

Martin Herbert
has advice for
those whose
children have
become rude and
moody adolescents.
Libby Purves
thinks parents
should listen

I regret a great deal about my teenage years. I regret having been so rude, so depressed, so spotty and so fat. I regret the days wasted lying on the bed staring hopelessly at the ceiling, and the evenings frittered away in boisterous, swaggering, third-rate teenage boys. But most of all, I think, I regret that I never met Dr Martin Herbert.

All teenagers maintain a moody and erratic search for Someone Who Understands, and Dr Herbert, Professor of Clinical Psychology at Leicester University, shows more signs of understanding teenage agony than most. He also, modestly and tentatively, offers a good many cures. Parents whose bright and biddable children have suddenly turned into rude, depressed, confused, aggressive strangers need no longer vacillate wildly between forced displays of madness and hysterical impersonations of Mr Barrett of Wimpole Street, with Herbert by our side, more of us might reach a humane accommodation with our offspring.

Humanity is Martin Herbert's strong point. He was born in Durban, a white South African. His mother made him practise music ("I am always divided on this issue. In one way, children shouldn't be forced into such things. Yet when I got to the shyness of adolescence, and had this marvellous skill to help me socially, I realized it had been right") and eventually he took to playing in a dance band. That, and his clinical psychology training, took him into black areas for the first time. "And I met blacks as individuals. It was marvellous. But it was the finish of me, as far as South Africa was concerned".

He came to England to finish his education, financing himself with dance-band gigs. He married here, but lost his only child in infancy. "I am nervous about this. I am afraid people might say, what does he know?" But despite the tragedy, he is profoundly fatherly. His lost child would have been a teenager now, and he works with countless others, and with students — one of whom wrote to him recently



Father figure: Dr Martin Herbert, hoping "to restore some dignity to desperate parents"

after many years. "She was the wildest, most difficult girl. She sent me a letter returning a book of mine she'd just found, and said, 'You'll never believe this, but I'm a barrister!' And she actually thanked me — she said 'Thank you for being solid and always there.' I had never thought I had done anything for her at all."

His book, *Living with Teenagers* (published yesterday), and its predecessor *Caring for your Children*, are not among those which offer instant, extreme solutions to childcare. He is not a one-minute father, nor a new-right moralist, nor a bleeding-heart liberal. He is a clinical psychologist, who presents a small amount of prosaic advice in the context of a great number of systematic surveys of problems and disruptions in adolescence.

"These things are very valuable," he says rather apologetically. "Parents tend to have a rather demonological attitude to children — think of them as horrors, and of teenagers as monsters. We have to get rid of those expectations. Attributions, we call them in the jargon. He is wary too of the 'frequent nativity' of psychologists who interview problem cases. In Leicester, he set up a new system of working with children, teenagers and parents in

their own homes rather than in the clinic. "It seems so obvious. Mothers with difficult children find them wonderfully well-behaved at clinics — everyone behaves more normally at home. Besides, it is good to set up a partnership between the parent and the psychologist, to restore some dignity to the desperate parent."

His view of teenagers is compassionate. He quotes 17th-century English philosopher John Locke: "Children are travellers newly arrived in a strange country of which they know nothing. Puberty, loss of identity, half-frightened yearnings towards independence lead on to what he identifies as the greatest problem of the period: depression arising from low self-esteem."

At times it may be difficult for a parent to accept that the arrogant teenager who will not lift a finger to help, who sneers at every parental value and swears at his mother, is suffering from a lack of self-esteem rather than the reverse.

Herbert is sympathetic. "It really can be hard. It is a bad time for parents to have difficulties themselves, to appear to have passions; they aren't welcome to share all the enthusiasms of the adolescent,

they have to be rebelled against, they mustn't pretend to be anything they are not. And traditional values are fraying at the edges, so it is extra difficult for the parent to lay down rules and the adolescent to find a direction."

He is regularly accused by his students of being an old fogey, but quotes "careful, detailed studies, which show that some system of rules is important at this stage". He cites Asian immigrant children in Leicester "who have undergone desperate separations, moves, uncertainties — things we would assume would produce a disturbed teenager. Yet they do very well. They are supported by a culture and tradition of child-rearing which may seem rigid, but works."

His worst failures have been in chaotic homes, homes without beliefs or values, or ones where parents have rigidly imposed their own child looking for order and direction. "They may bitch on about rules and strictness, you know, but it's the children who say their parents don't care what they do who come to me the most bitter."

He is in revolt, too, against the Freudian model of psychology, in which frustrations in one direction have to be vented in another. "A

person' is not a plumbing system. And I get fed up with this business of regression therapy, shouting, screaming, tantrums, re-living awful things. It just reinforces awful behaviour."

One of the controversial sides of his therapy is the drawing up of "contracts" between parent and child, in which the child promises to let her parents know about her destination at night, not to be moody, to apologize at times, to do an hour's homework a night, and so on — and parents, with equal solemnity, sign undertakings to stop criticizing her friends, regularly review pocket money, and admit when they are in the wrong. It may sound absurd, but he has found it valuable therapy. "I have, professionally, seen children and teenagers recover from a position you would have deemed utterly hopeless."

The strength, and the novelty, of Martin Herbert's approach is in the combination of his certainty that good behaviour and social adaptation is both possible and necessary for everyone (a certainty which cracked in the 1960s and hasn't quite recovered) with a compassion and willingness to understand the feelings which militate against good behaviour.

He takes in the contradictions; he understands the dangers of premature foreclosing on adolescence (for example by teenage pregnancy), but as a scientist, points out that many societies don't have adolescence at all: a child takes on adulthood at puberty. He approves of affection and a liberal approach, but defends the child's "God-given right to have something to rebel against."

Because he has no brash, overall theory, he is unlikely to be a bestseller, but there is more wisdom in his book than in most. It won't date, either. I shall lay my copy down for 10 years, until I seriously need it.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987
Living with Teenagers by Martin Herbert is published by Basil Blackwell, £6.95.

Taking liberties

Last Tuesday night I watched the *News at Six*, transfixed by the images flickering in front of me. The footage was of an elderly man, Mr Karl Linnaas, 67, being pushed into a car in New York City. He was en route to the Soviet Union, but he didn't want to go. One of the detectives accompanying him had to put his hand on top of Linnaas's hat and squish it down, pushing the old man's head into the car like an overstuffed bag of groceries and speeding him on his way.

I could see Linnaas's face on the screen. The eyes were like those of a rodent trapped in a beam of light against a wall. His head jerked back and forth and beneath the prophet's beard white and flowing, I could see his lips moving. The commentator said he was shouting "God bless America". Do you know, I cried.

My response shamed me at first because I am a Jew and Karl Linnaas is an accused Nazi. Of course, practically speaking, the Holocaust touched me barely at all: I was safe in England. But I share a normal person's abhorrence of genocide and the historical obligation of a Jew. Venezuela has always seemed to me a perfectly respectable emotion and I believe that I could wreak it with my bare hands on a convicted Nazi. One doesn't weep over murderers, no matter how old, and beads can be grown by evil men as well as saints.

Karl Linnaas emigrated to the United States in 1951. In the early 60s, the Soviets tried him *in absentia* for war crimes in Estonia. He was convicted and sentenced to death. In 1981 his American citizenship was revoked on grounds that he had concealed his Nazi past when admitted to the States. He fought deportation for eight years, but his deportation was a political decision, not a question of jurisprudence. Courts are powerless to make new laws and the punishment, though severe, was not illegal. He was greeted this week in the Soviet Union by the KGB, who pushed aside newsmen wanting photos with the words "We don't give publicity to traitors."

Naturally, I have never questioned that there are war



BARBARA AMIEL

criminals lurking about and that some of them found their way to the West. Still, my concern about Karl Linnaas has nothing to do with questions of his guilt or innocence. Frankly, I have no way of knowing the extent of his guilt. Was he a concentration camp commandant as charged, who murdered hundreds of people? I don't know. He may have been. He may well have been a collaborator. He may have been an Estonian nationalist, fanatical in his anti-communism, hardened by the appalling atrocities the communists inflicted on the Estonians. If patriotic nationalism was behind his involvement

What has become of us when we decide some people can be thrown to the wolves?

with the Germans, he may well have had a partial defence to the charges against him — if only he had been able to present that defence.

But he couldn't. Karl Linnaas will never have a fair trial on the war criminal charges made against him. He was tried in a *civil* proceeding in the United States, concerned only with the truthfulness of his immigration application. The Soviet evidence used against him will never be tested in a criminal court and may well have been totally inadmissible.

Now Linnaas has been sent to his death. In effect, the Americans seemed to have decided that the Karl Linnaases of the world belong to a class of people for whom it is all right to suspend all those civil liberties and judicial safeguards that are the basis of their Constitution and freedom. The word "Nazi" seems to have become a mantra blocking rational thought. It is all right to send an accused Nazi back to the kangaroo courts of totalitarian communism. Would we have permitted the deportation to Nazi Germany of a man accused of communist atrocities? What has become of us when we decide that some people can be thrown to the wolves and exposed to a totally unjust system?

We teach our children, rightly I think, that the Second World War was one of the few wars fought for clear principles. Among those principles was the belief that justice is blind as to whether a man is Jew or Gentile, Nazi or communist, black or white; and the idea that every man, no matter how vile or weak or wretched, deserves a fair trial. I have no concern for the injury being done to this particular man. My concern is the injury we inflict upon the ideals for which our fathers died, when we dismiss the rights of a Karl Linnaas.

As a Jew, I find the Jewish support for what seems to me a betrayal of these principles doubly mystifying. Surely these actions assist our single greatest opponent today, the Soviet Union? After all, it is the USSR that both funds the PLO and actively oppresses over two million Soviet Jews. Their recent desire to assist the West in tracking down Nazi war criminals is no mystery: the large ethnic communities from the Baltic states and the Ukraine now living in the West know about the Soviet reality better than anyone else, and not surprisingly, the Soviets try to alienate and discredit those communities.

Why, I thought, as I watched the grotesque figure of Karl Linnaas fade from the screen, are we helping the people who want to push us into the sea? Life really is macabre.

TALKBACK

From A. Barrie, Manor Way, Blackheath, London SE3
As a father myself I would yield to no one when it comes to protecting the interests of children, but in my judgement the article by Libby Purves (Models of Innocence?, Wednesday Page, April 8) was misguided.

To suggest that one may not acknowledge the attractiveness of attractive children is surely bordering on the neurotic. Her admonitions to the advertising industry about how much a child's body may be shown makes me wonder how she and her psychologist adviser, Michele Elliott, feel about, for example, soccer, swimming and PE for children. Is it to be soccer in long, loose-fitting trousers, swimming in sturdy neck-to-ankles costumes, and PE in the dark?

From Christopher Hurst, King Street, London WC2

Despite being middle-aged and hard-bitten, I found Jane Baker's short First Person piece "Just Causes and Impediments" (Wednesday Page, April 15) about the remarriage of her former husband almost unbearable to read. The husband's behaviour needs no comment; what does is the way the Church of England, presumably in the name of Christian love, has devalued its own marriage service and let down those who have been through it by giving its priests freedom, if they so choose, to let divorced people have the full rite on their second time round — never mind the vows exchanged with God the first time.

It has to be added that Archbishop Runcie's memorable statement (March 30) that he would be tough with himself while being woolly with others seems quite directly to connive at the kind of torment inflicted on Jane Baker. Last week we were being reminded of Christ's wounds on the cross. Did he suffer so that others should be released from moral responsibility in his name?

Sterile arguments

Mrs Mary Wright, who this week gave birth to the second of twins conceived with the aid of *in vitro* fertilization, had been sterilized some years earlier after having two children by her first husband. When that marriage ended and she met her present husband, she was distraught to be told by a doctor that it was impossible for her to become pregnant again, so she and her husband turned to the Bourn Hall Fertility Clinic to give them the baby they so desired.

Mrs Wright's advice to women considering sterilization is now said to be that they should think hard before going ahead, as they do not know what the future holds.

Mrs Phyllis Gold might well give the same advice, but for very different reasons. Phyllis Gold is the woman whose claim for compensation for a failed sterilization operation was turned down by the Court of Appeal last week.

She was sterilized just after the birth of her third child, but three years later she gave birth to her fourth. No one warned her when she was considering the operation that it carries a six-in-a-thousand risk of subsequent pregnancy if done immediately after childbirth. Nor did her consultant raise the possibility of vasectomy for her husband, a simpler operation with a much lower failure rate.

We do not know how Mrs Wright was sterilized — but today women are not always told that some methods, for example using clips, can offer an 80-90 per cent rate of pregnancy when reversed. Many doctors still advise women that sterilization is irreversible. The Gold ruling confirms that, in this country at least, patients are entitled to know only what doctors think they should be told.

Why are women still kept in the dark about the consequences of some operations?



Information gap: Phyllis Gold

around 50 per cent of doctors did not make it a practice to warn women that sterilization was not 100 per cent foolproof. And that, said the judges, was conclusive: the doctor was not negligent.

Some would argue that the judges got it right; that doctors should only be held to blame if they botch an operation or give the wrong treatment. But this argument overlooks the fact that a doctor cannot operate without the patient's consent. How real is that consent if the patient is kept in the dark about the risks and the alternatives?

Even in 1987, women operated on for early breast cancer are not always told there is a choice between mastectomy, removing the whole breast, and lumpectomy, removing just

the tumour and some of the surrounding tissue, but allowing the woman to keep her breast.

The doctrine of informed consent, enshrined in American and Canadian law, gives patients in those countries the right to know the material facts about an operation before submitting to the knife. In Britain, the House of Lords decided in 1985, the information a doctor is obliged to give a patient largely depends on current medical practice.

In that case, Amy Sidaway, left partly paralysed after a delicate operation, sued her surgeon for not informing her of the small risk of damage to the spinal chord, and lost. Other doctors gave evidence that at the time, many surgeons would not have warned the patient of the risk.

But women considering sterilization are not ill; they simply want to limit their families in the way that best suits their circumstances.

Most women, told of the slight risk of failure, would still elect to go ahead. The warning would actually promote the purpose of the operation — preventing unwanted children — because a woman who was alert to the possibility of pregnancy would spot the signs early enough for an abortion.

Some women, of course, have strong feelings against abortion. Shouldn't they be told that the risk of finding themselves facing that dilemma would be much smaller with vasectomies?

Ian Kennedy, professor of Medical Law and Ethics at King's College, London, is "surprised, and somewhat saddened" by the Gold ruling. "The court misses the very critical issue that for a patient to give proper consent, she needs to understand not only the risks, but also the alternatives."

Clare Dyer

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THE TIMES
DIARY

Narayan's show trial

Rudy Narayan, the flamboyant black barrister, is once again due to appear before the Bar Council's professional conduct committee. Four years ago he was suspended for six weeks by the Bar disciplinary tribunal over complaints that he had abused the DPP and his staff. This time Narayan, who is in trouble over cross-examination he conducted when he defended Rastafarians in Birmingham on charges arising from the Handsworth riots, is determined that his case is accorded the status of an international human rights issue. He has written to Mikhail Gorbachev asking for an audience with him in Moscow, and either a Soviet lawyer to defend him or a human rights observer or two from the London embassy to attend his examination. Meanwhile he is anxious but not unduly worried that he is probably Britain's most prosecuted barrister and that his livelihood is once again under threat.

Tongue untied

Lady Jones, Liverpool's first Lord Mayor since the post was abolished under Labour's leadership, has brought an unexpected bonus to the city's health and social services. On a visit to an old people's home in Toxteth last week she was introduced to an elderly resident who, it was believed, had not spoken for four years. Since her visit he has not stopped. Lady Jones was unsurprised by her success. "I always get down on my knees and try to talk to everyone and bring them out of themselves," she says.

● The Welsh Labour Party might benefit from a maths lesson. In a list of candidates published recently, Neil Kinnoch, who was born on March 28, 1942, is described as being 42 years old.

King's reach

In death the old newspaper warrior Cecil King achieved something for which no living politician dare hope: bringing Ian Paisley, Nicholas Fenn, the British ambassador to Ireland and Daiichi O Conaill, former vice-president of Sinn Féin, together in worship. The occasion was this week's memorial service for King at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

Wider spread

A free glossy poster with pictures and an explanation of the AIDS virus in the current edition of *New Scientist* is evidence of the insatiable public demand for information about the disease. Editor Michael Kenward tells me it was produced after a huge request for extra copies of a recent edition of the magazine which included the material featured in the poster.

Gulf of Aidan

Harriet Crawley, the prospective Conservative candidate for Brent East, has already surprised local voters by being unmarried and expecting a baby. Now they are confronted with her particularly opaque biographical leaflet. It reads: "Harriet comes from an intensely political background... her father, Aidan, was a junior minister in the first post-war government and later Conservative MP for West Derbyshire." What this does not spell out is that the government in question was Labour. Miss Crawley says: "It is an important point to keep making in Brent. Anyway, Daddy was right to be Labour then because Britain needed a welfare state. It doesn't need to be Labour any more. After the war it would have been hardboiled not to be socialist."



BARRY FANTONI

"Is there a patient in the house?"

Field day

Cyril Stein, Ladbroke's chairman, emerged yesterday as the hero of the extraordinary airline flight from Tel Aviv which raised £45,000 for a little girl's liver transplant before touchdown at Heathrow. As the first of the pledged cheques arrived yesterday to pay for four-year-old Moran Kadosh's operation, fellow passengers who contributed to the whip-round told how Stein took over the intercom to cajole them into bigger donations. Banker Meneham Weber said: "Mr Stein is a very persuasive man. A natural leader." Stein, meanwhile, praised the initiative of Ruth Cohen, a charity worker who alerted him to the plight of Moran's parents, who needed more money to pay for the operation. "It was a very emotional journey. As for taking credit, I deserve five per cent at most," he said.

PHS

Moral qualms over the test-tube twins

by Alex McCall-Smith

entities may differ from the way we treat recognizable human beings, but they should not be treated as objects. At the least they are entitled to respect, and this respect may entail granting actual or future rights.

In the Wrights' case, the story of their frozen embryos has undoubtedly had the sort of ending which we may assume the embryos, were they capable of thinking, would have wished for themselves. But what about a case where the father dies before the frozen embryo is implanted? This raises the issue of the posthumous child, and here there is an ethical objection from certain quarters.

If one takes the view that every child is entitled to at least the prospect of two parents, then it is ethically wrong to bring into existence a child who is not going to have that chance. This view would therefore exclude the availability of artificial insemination to a single woman, and it would exclude the implantation of an embryo in a woman who has lost her partner.

Parents may change their minds. A case might arise in which the parents of frozen embryos decide that they no longer want children. Are they then entitled to order the destruction of the embryos, or should the embryos be given some sort of protection? If the unimplanted embryo is legally no more than property it can be disposed of by its owner as the owner sees fit. Ideally, if anybody is to be the owner of an embryo, it should be the couple, no matter what contractual arrangements have been entered into with the storing clinic.

Legislation to control in vitro fertilization is already on the Australian statute book. In Victoria, implantation is allowed only if the receiving woman is married and her husband consents. If it proves impossible to implant an embryo in the woman for whom it was originally intended, then it may be used for implantation in another, provided that the embryo's "parents" consent. The Victorian legislation also provides that either partner may withdraw

consent to implantation. This is an important provision for a father who might otherwise see himself siring a long procession of children by a woman from whom he may by then have become estranged.

There are those who hold that the embryo should be protected by the law against destruction by its parents. If this position were adopted, it would mean that those storing it would be obliged to implant it in a receptive mother when such a person presented herself. This would impose an impossible obligation on clinics. It is far simpler to conclude that the initial act of fertilization was done with a morally acceptable motive, and that because of changed circumstances the prospective right to implantation which the embryo once enjoyed can no longer be realized. The embryo then becomes something without rights, although it might still be considered human material to which decency should be shown in the manner of disposal.

This will be distasteful to Catholics, among others, who would censure the parents for creating an embryo and then abandoning it. It is, though, a position that can be defended if one takes the view, as I do, that the embryo develops moral status of real significance on implantation within the mother. This is because it is at this stage that the embryo can be seen, as entering the human community, with some, if not all, the rights which go with membership of that community.

The author is Associate Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Edinburgh.

On the anniversary of Chernobyl, Mary Dejevsky assesses a lasting legacy

A Soviet deity dethroned

One year ago this weekend an explosion and fire at reactor No 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power station ended all complacency about the safety of nuclear power. The accident killed 30 people and may, even according to the most conservative estimates, claim another 600 over the next 40 years. It disrupted the lives of thousands living nearby and blighted huge tracts of agricultural land. Chernobyl set back the Soviet Union's extensive nuclear power programme by many years and caused other countries to look anxiously at their own nuclear safety and contingency planning.

These losses are known and well chronicled. Less well known and scarcely chronicled at all is the impact of Chernobyl on morale and attitudes within the Soviet Union. In retrospect, the suffering caused by Chernobyl, the damage inflicted on Soviet prestige around the world — not only by the accident but by Moscow's failure to inform other countries promptly — and the doubts cast on Soviet scientific competence may come to be regarded as contributing to fundamental changes which might not otherwise have come about, at least not so rapidly.

One of the first casualties of Chernobyl, after the truth, was the veneration which has been accorded to science in the Soviet Union ever since the revolution. The very word "science" tends to be spoken with a special reverence, like the name Lenin. "Scientific" is attached to words such as communism, materialism and atheism to give them special validity. Much as a fundamentalist Christian might bring an argument incontrovertibly to an end by saying "It's in the Bible", an argument in the Soviet Union can often be halted with the categorical words, "But it has been scientifically proved".

Nuclear power was favoured by Soviet planners not just because it was a cheap way to fuel the country's energy-thirsty industry, nor yet because the areas requiring most energy were those lacking coal and oil. Nuclear power was also favoured because it was seen as a scientific form of energy. And because it was the result of a scientific process, it followed that its safety was beyond doubt.

In the USSR, as in the West, a connection was drawn between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Public reactions, however — at least before Chernobyl — were quite different. Where the word "nuclear" often inspired fear in the West, in the Soviet Union it tended to evoke pride, pride that Soviet scientists had been able to compete successfully in a technology pioneered by the United States. The accident at Chernobyl has dented this pride irrevocably.

Recent City scandals have had all the elements of a good whodunnit. But combined with the entertainment value there has been moral outrage that has encouraged a long overdue debate about business ethics.

While the scandals have raised questions about standards of honesty and encouraged calls for tighter controls, they represent only a part of the much wider, if less dramatic, issues facing managers in business and industry all the time. Consider, for example, the following questions:

● Should a company invest in a developing country with a corrupt and despotic regime? Not South Africa, note, just a poor country, badly run, whose people desperately need the jobs?

● What action should a manager take on suspecting (but without positively knowing) that his company or organization is breaking the law? When exactly is whistleblowing justified?

● At what stage does the safety level become acceptable for a new product? The law may lay down minimum standards, but how long should testing go on if doubts remain after they have been met? What should happen when delay means that not only profits but jobs are at stake?

● What responsibilities do com-



The Soviet adulation of science has had some perverse effects. It has, for instance, given science fiction a special place in Soviet literature — so special that otherwise heretical thoughts have in the past been expressed with impunity within its framework. In the 1960s the writer Andrei Sinyavsky, under his pseudonym Abram Tertz, resorted to science fiction to express social criticism which could not have been published in another form. A decade later the film producer Andrei Tarkovsky used science fiction, in *Solyaris*, to introduce a metaphysical dimension which could have fallen foul of the censor.

At the same time, the respect shown to science and all things scientific has encouraged an interest in pseudo-science which verges on credulity. There is a fascination with psychic phenomena such as telepathy and second sight and with flying saucers and extraterrestrial life beyond anything in most Western countries. A man in a white coat appearing in the opening sequence of a film bestows a scientific veneer on what follows, ensuring that it will be both popular and believed.

After Chernobyl the beginnings of a change in public attitudes can be perceived. It is not just that the safety of nuclear power — even Soviet nuclear power — can no longer be taken for granted. It is that scientific methods and scientific conclusions have lost a little of their mystery and hence their infallibility.

In the play *Sarcophagus*, written by Vladimir Gubarev, the science editor of *Pravda*, soon after the accident and staged subsequently in several Soviet cities and now in London, the pre-eminence of Soviet science is called into question through the figure of the physicist. Challenged to account for the accident, he defends himself by saying that an atomic reaction is miraculous, but that the process has to be watched and controlled responsibly. Science has thus been toppled from the pedestal on which it has stood for decades.

Since Chernobyl the assurance, bordering on arrogance, of the Soviet Union when its scientific competence is challenged has been tempered. Moscow requested foreign assistance to deal with the aftermath of the accident. It submitted a report to the International Atomic Energy Authority which was widely praised for its frankness and for the detail it provided. The conclusions of the report have not been made available in detail to the Soviet public, but even its appearance abroad was progress for a country where nuclear power stations are considered strategic (and therefore secret) objects.

The initial instinct of the Soviet authorities to pin the blame on one or two negligent operators has been modified. Four operators are still due to stand trial, but the device of the power station and the administrative structure which accommodated unauthorized experiments, like those which

with career interest. In the United States, by contrast, the issues are widely discussed. Helping to prepare material for a new course in business ethics at the London Business School, I found nearly 2,000 entries from the US for a bibliography, but only 40 from Britain.

There are some signs of change. An Institute of Business Ethics has recently been formed, and Business in the Community, an organization that helps industry and commerce look at the wider aspects of their relationship to the community, has greatly helped to raise awareness. However, a more systematic educational approach is needed.

Business ethics is already an accepted part of most business school courses in the US and should be part of the training of every manager here. In itself, such training will not convert the corrupt into the virtuous. But it should give managers access to a body of knowledge and create a climate in which organizations are better able to make informed judgements.

precipitated the accident have subsequently been criticized publicly. Also reported after the accident was a hitherto unmentionable subject: the fear that pervades local officialdom when an accident occurs on their territory. This was probably one reason why reports of the accident were so delayed.

Because of this delay, Chernobyl is sometimes seen as having set back the cause of *glasnost* — that Russian word which has come to mean "openness", in the Western sense of "frankness", without the connotations of publicity coupled with accountability which it carries in Russian. At the time of the accident *glasnost* had barely entered the vocabulary of Gorbachev's Russia.

Chernobyl may, with time, be seen as having demonstrated the need for *glasnost* to the Soviet leadership, for it exposed the dangers of leaving people without the information they need to do their jobs properly — and safely. Only since Chernobyl have the Soviet media given space, or air time, to opposing, even heretical, views of their own country. Mrs Thatcher's television interview was one such event; another was the republication of an appeal made by distinguished Soviet emigrants in the Western press. Joint television programmes have been screened with an American presenter and a Soviet studio audience in which hitherto unmentionable social topics such as sex education and marriage breakdown have been discussed.

Strangely, to Western eyes, such programmes have convinced in for strong public criticism. Many people in the Soviet Union are unaccustomed to having their country and its wisdom questioned. They regard such questioning as unjustifiably weakening Soviet standing in the world. It will take time for the change in attitudes to filter through.

If the process is not arrested, the Chernobyl disaster may eventually prove to have delivered a healthy corrective to the excessive certainty that has pervaded the official Soviet world view for so long. The credulity of the Soviet public when confronted with scientific or ideological labels could thereby be reduced, as could the reluctance of the Soviet authorities to acknowledge the appeal of the metaphysical. The result could be a more tolerant society, and hence — from the Western point of view — a more acceptable one.

The uncertainty now starting to affect Soviet attitudes must continue if *glasnost* is to develop further. Soviet journalists, however, are still far from free to report information about Chernobyl and its aftermath is being denied them.

There were indeed times when my prayers seemed to have been answered, when the gutters ran with deep brown country rain and the Severn burst its banks, streaming through the streets and dividing the town in two. But it never stopped our lot coming to school.

Our teachers would have journeyed through floods of such fast-flowing depths that Noah himself would have stayed below decks with the animals. They piloted their Morris Minors, the seats piled high with exercise books, through snows so crisp and even that Wenceslas would have leaped through the window and told yonder peasant the way to the social security. A squadron of tanks might have stopped them, given supporting artillery, and infantry to cover their flanks. But short of that, I cannot think of anything that might have done so.

Our masters did not eat or still less drink, have mortgages, affairs or gambling debts, have accidents in their cars, or chicken pox or flu, or suffer from the other human frailties. They were wrapped in a professional ethic that protected them from weakness. Like Wells

John Rae

Blinded by the Nazis

One of the most harmful legacies of Nazism is our belief that racism is the highest form of evil. Because we are still in the grip of this moral distortion, our stand on human rights is liable to be inconsistent and hypocritical.

This unfashionable thought surfaced again this week when I learnt that a private individual in the United States is proposing to start legal proceedings against Pol Pot. There is little chance of Pol Pot appearing before a modern version of the Nuremberg Tribunal because he is protected by the *realpolitik* of East-West relations. No one outside his Khmer Rouge condones the holocaust he inspired in Cambodia, but bringing him to justice is not a priority.

If Pol Pot's victims had been of a different race his ashes would have been scattered on the sea long ago. But his victims were his fellow Cambodians. Twelve years ago this month the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia. This fanatical communist organization ruled the country until driven out by the Vietnamese in January 1979. In that period they exterminated between two and three million out of a population of seven million. At their Gestapo-type HQ, Tuol Sleng, thousands of men, women and children were tortured and summarily executed. Thousands more were worked or beaten to death in the vast labour camps of the new rural Utopia. If you were middle-class, or educated, or just showed signs of independent thought, your chances of survival were small.

In the scale of their slaughter and in their pathological sadism, the Khmer Rouge and the Nazis had much in common. Where they differed — and this is what enables the world to wash its hands of responsibility for charging Pol Pot with crimes against humanity — was in motivation.

The Nazi holocaust was inspired by a belief in racial superiority. The Khmer Rouge holocaust was inspired by a desire to purge Cambodian society of all traces of Western and bourgeois influence. The Paris-educated Pol Pot would no doubt call Robespierre for the defence: "If the mainspring of government in time of peace is virtue, its mainspring in time of revolution is virtue and terror combined: virtue without which terror is squalidly repressive, terror without which virtue lies disarmed."

In other words, Nazi terror in pursuit of racial purity was squalidly repressive while Khmer Rouge terror in pursuit of political purity was necessary and therefore goes unpunished. It is this cynical logic that the Nazi legacy tempts us to accept. Because they were ideologically bankrupt, the Nazis have encouraged us to turn a blind eye to crimes against humanity that are committed in the name of "virtue"; and because they were racists, they have persuaded us that racial repression must by definition be more evil than political or religious repression. The result is that our concern for human rights is selective. The

most obvious example is South Africa. Nothing that the South African government has done to enforce its racist policies remotely compares for sheer evil with the methods used by the Khmer Rouge to enforce its political policies. Even the United Nations Commission on Human Rights recognizes that what happened in Cambodia was the most serious violation of human rights since Nazism.

Yet while South Africa is the pariah of the international community, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge is internationally recognized as the legitimate government of what is now called Kampuchea and may well return to power if the Vietnamese withdraw.

To argue in these terms is to risk being called a racist. My way home from the office takes me past South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, where for several months a noisy picket has been demanding the release of Nelson Mandela. I asked one of the participants whether he would also demand the trial of Pol Pot. He had never heard of him. We should not be surprised. Pol Pot is not a racist. He is merely a Marxist who used genocide to restructure a bourgeois society. As I walked away a strident voice shouted abuse through a loudhailer at my retreating figure.

The source of that young man's ignorance and of our hypocrisy over human rights is a confusion between disease and symptom. Racism is not a disease. It is just a symptom of man's inhumanity to man.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn tells a Jewish story. A prisoner in a concentration camp is told by the commandant that his life will be spared if he can tell which is the commandant's glass eye. The prisoner guesses correctly. "How did you know?" asks the commandant. "Because in that eye," is the reply, "there is just a hint of compassion."

The disease that leads to abuses of human rights is not racism but the dead eye that allows us to look on other people's suffering without compassion. It is the same disease whether the symptoms take the form of religious, political or racial bigotry. But we shall never succeed in controlling the disease as long as we concentrate our outrage on just one symptom.

For 40 years the Nazis have dictated and distorted our approach to human rights. It is time they were consigned to history, where their racial genocide is not forgotten but placed on a par with religious genocide, such as that of the Turks against the Armenians, and political genocide such as that of the Khmer Rouge.

That may save us from falling into the same trap as Voltaire and the philosophers of the Enlightenment, who believed that if religious bigotry could be eradicated all would be sweetness and light. We should not need to be reminded how wrong they were.

The author, formerly headmaster of Westminster School, is now Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation.

Henry Stanhope

A fourth R we can do without

I switched on Radio 4 the other night and heard a group of schoolboys complaining because their teachers kept going on strike. It would never have happened in my day.

In the first place our teachers would never have gone on strike, in the second, we would never have complained if they had.

Our school staff would not have gone on strike had the government halved their pay, cancelled their holidays, charged them for chalk or made them come in on Saturday to clean the windows.

There were mornings when, before facing double algebra or a bewildering hour in the chemistry lab, I stared through the window at a leaden sky and solemnly prayed for rain: not just any old rain, but tempests of such ferocity and force that they constituted an act of God. Or perhaps we could have some snow — piling up in deep drifts, Persil-white and clinging, in which cars would spin like Catherine wheels and bury themselves for weeks.

There were indeed times when my prayers seemed to have been answered, when the gutters ran with deep brown country rain and the Severn burst its banks, streaming through the streets and dividing the town in two. But it never stopped our lot coming to school.

Our teachers would have journeyed through floods of such fast-flowing depths that Noah himself would have stayed below decks with the animals. They piloted their Morris Minors, the seats piled high with exercise books, through snows so crisp and even that Wenceslas would have leaped through the window and told yonder peasant the way to the social security. A squadron of tanks might have stopped them, given supporting artillery, and infantry to cover their flanks. But short of that, I cannot think of anything that might have done so.

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John Rae

Fargo they always got through. So what has gone wrong? I will tell you. I blame it all on the Parent-Teacher Association.

Now you might consider parent-teacher associations to be fairly innocent organizations, invented by fond parents for the protection of their offspring: by a school because it coveted a minibus — much as a football club relies upon its supporters' association raffles to save it from virtual bankruptcy.

They have had the unfortunate effect, however, of importing lesser mortals, and their habits, into places that were better off without them. I have always believed in rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and in regarding that later behind the school railings as Hitler Gaul. Home is home and school is school and the gap between the two is best left unbridged (except in Haringey or Brent, where educational progress has been put back 150 years).

My son briefly attended an elementary school where a mistress actually boasted to the wretched PTA that the school door was always open to parents. Now I could have told her that what you are most likely to get from leaving the front door open is a draught — and one which might prove difficult to get rid of.

This school even went so far as to invite mothers in to help the teachers out, for reasons which I never understood (given that a shortage of teachers was not what it seemed to be suffering from). Now if I had a bunch of doting mothers wandering through my classroom when I was struggling to teach reading, writing and arithmetic to a bunch of revolutionary six-year-olds who had other ideas about how best to spend their mornings, I would have driven them out like the money-changers from the temple.

The effect of all this mingling has been to give everyone "rights". We have teachers' rights, councilors' rights, parents' rights and pupils' rights. Now too many rights make a wrong and the sooner we can separate the contestants we might start returning to normal again.



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A SECRET LIFE

In 1979 the Prime Minister established a tradition of candour by her revelation that the late Anthony Blunt was a traitor. Mrs Thatcher now says that the late Sir Maurice Oldfield, the head of MI6, was a homosexual.

Her own relationship to the two cases is very different. She bore no share of the blame for Blunt. His treason prospered under other Prime Ministers. Oldfield was the man whom she herself brought out of retirement to take charge of security in Northern Ireland.

The terms "homosexual" and "security risk" are not synonymous, and there is too much of a tendency to treat them as such. But, until the climate of opinion about homosexuality changes irrevocably, a secret homosexual is by definition a security risk if he is a member of a secret service, let alone its head. It must be assumed that Mrs Thatcher would not have sent Oldfield to Northern Ireland had she known of his homosexuality, just as earlier Prime Ministers would not have consented to his being put in charge of MI6 if they had known.

So Mrs Thatcher was responsible for appointing a security risk to the most insecure part of the United Kingdom. In a way, that made her candour of yesterday all the more admirable. It must have been a difficult admission to make.

Fortunately for her, the public probably does not regard Prime Ministers as being directly responsible for what goes on in the security ser-

vices. It is widely assumed that nearly everyone is deceiving nearly everyone else in that dark world. In such matters she is seen - rightly - as being in the hands of experts.

She would not have decided to recall Oldfield in 1979 of her own accord. She would have taken advice - especially since she had only just become Prime Minister. She would have asked people about him. Did those whose duty it was to advise her (whoever they were) not know of Oldfield's homosexuality? Did they know, but not tell her. Either way, she was ill-served.

Those are only a few of the questions raised by her statement yesterday. It raises questions in virtually every sentence. "Subsequently (to Oldfield being sent to Ulster) reports were received which caused his positive vetting clearance to be reviewed". Reports about what? From whom?

In March, 1980, in the course of that review, he made an admission that he had from time to time engaged in homosexual activities. Over what period? With whom? Sordid questions, on the face of it. But not when the man concerned was head of MI6.

What event, or events, caused reports to be received which resulted in the review of his positive vetting? Mr Chapman Fincher says it was police discoveries that male prostitutes were visiting Oldfield's London flat. There have also been hints of Oldfield having been engaged in similar activities in Ulster - activities

which would have been of great interest to the IRA or Protestant para-militaries.

Had he consorted with male prostitutes when he was head of MI6? Admittedly, that does not follow. It is possible that he had led a largely celibate life, or had formed relatively stable liaisons. But, if he had used male prostitutes, did no one in the security services discover it? If not, why not? Their profession is supposed to be about finding out such things.

There is now a strong possibility that one of the most important intelligence officers of the post-war period was lying throughout his career. The lie, if it was one, ran at many levels. It may not have involved the telling of an untruth. But, if not, his very silence was a lie nonetheless.

He was head of the organisation (MI6) concerned with positive vetting of Government officials. One of the questions Government officials are asked is whether they are homosexuals. The answer "yes" does not disqualify them from being given a job. But the security services like to know these things. Did Oldfield, when head of MI6, ever have to answer that question. If so, what was his answer?

There is no suggestion that Oldfield would have betrayed his country. Indeed, it is known that he gave it much service. When his apparently secret life became known, he admitted it. That does not make any less disturbing what seems to have gone before.

MR BOTHA'S EMPTY PROMISES

The violence which has flared anew in the past few days in Johannesburg and its satellite black townships will probably mean a few thousand more votes for President Botha in the coming election. His leadership, which has abandoned its reformist past, has little now to offer the white electorate except to play on its fears of black insurrection. By shooting workers on strike it parades its determination to maintain order, if not law, at all costs.

In his battle to curtail the growth of his extreme right-wing opponents there can be little doubt, therefore, that a grim good fortune favours Mr Botha. South Africa's sullen peace does not seem close to a more general breakdown.

Black South Africans have seen their strength tested and found wanting in the face of the Government's power and determination to use it. They have discovered after two years of bloodshed that the revolution is not around the corner. Radical leaders have found it ever more difficult to maintain among an exhausted people that level of zeal which kept workers at home, children out of school and the black community on the rack for more than two years.

The strike by transport workers appears to be part of a new phase in the struggle for black rights, one in which specific programmes of sporadic and largely industrial action will take the place of

general violence. It has been aggravated by Petros's inability to cope with black unions and by the matching inability of its police to meet provocation with anything but bullets and whips.

The possibility that this week's tragic events in Johannesburg could once again light the fires of unrest across the country can never be discounted. It seems more likely, however, that the country has entered a period of sporadic violence in which black protest can be curtailed but not entirely crushed.

All of this may help Mr Botha to woo supporters of the far right back into the National Party but it does nothing to address the concerns of those among the Afrikaner elite who have emerged from the folds of the National Party to issue the most direct challenge to his leadership in this election.

Whether or not South Africa's former ambassador to London, Dr Denis Worrall, or his fellow independents and erstwhile nationalists Esther Lategan and Wynand Malan win victories, their candidacies have been the focus of a deep and growing disaffection with President Botha among Afrikaner academics, business leaders, churchmen and young professionals.

In 1983 it was this elite, together with a large slice of the English-speaking community, that provided the core of Mr Botha's support. Today

English-speaking South Africa and the Afrikaner elite are united once again but by a deep sense of betrayal. They see that Mr Botha has failed to meet his promises and instead revealed his own severe limitations as a leader.

Those limitations always lurked behind the reformist zeal of his early years in power. But, coupled with his aggressive manner and his apparent retreat behind the barricades of an isolated office, they have become a major factor in this election.

In an address in the heartland of Afrikaner dissidence this week Mr Botha tried once again to give a reformist gloss to his words. But his failure to provide specifics, the action of his police against the striking workers a few hours earlier and his promise to remain in office until his term ends in 1989 will have done little to allay their fears.

Such is the depth of dismay over the Botha factor in this election - a dismay which is apparently shared by members of his cabinet - that his promise to serve out his term may well prove as empty as the others he has made in recent years. President Botha will certainly win the election, albeit with a reduced majority, but as his party chiefs watch the brightest and the best of Afrikanerdom move into open revolt against his leadership, he could well lose his personal battle to stay in power for two more years.

THE RIGHT MAN TO HOLD THE RING

The recruitment of Mr Robert Alexander QC, one of the most outstanding practising barristers of the day, to head the City Takeover Panel, is no routine appointment. It is intended to change the role of his quintessentially self-regulating body in the new, more challenging, City environment.

The scandals that have racked the securities markets over recent months display a combination of personal and impersonal factors. The rise of the takeover industry - the source of nearly all the scandals - stems in part from eager competition among managers of share portfolios to maximize their short-term performance. City institutional managers are often ill-equipped by temperament to rate ructions in the boards of indifferently run companies. They prefer bold danciers to exercise discipline over managers on their half through the impersonal keever bid.

The Panel's province is to hold the ring in takeover battles to ensure that shareholders are treated fairly and companies given a chance to argue their case. The continuing revelations of the Guinness case reveal,

all has not been going smoothly.

That is in part because the Panel's Code of Practice has not caught up with the latest sophistications of the takeover industry. It has now been revised in detailed ways. Rather more, it stems from a progressive erosion of the Panel's authority.

The Panel's competence has remained high. But an institution which had attained, and been used to, unquestioning obedience under that formidable lawyer Lord Shawcross in the Seventies, may have become a little complacent.

Under the pressure of competition and more impersonal corporate management, some City merchant banks and stockbrokers (as well as their clients) have lost that sense of common interest and personal responsibility which upholds the rules of a self-regulating club. They had increasingly abided by the letter rather than the spirit of the rules.

Once that happens, it is hard to reverse. As we pointed out at the time, it was a rare mistake in the Financial Services Act to exclude the Takeover Panel (and equally the Lloyd's insurance market) from the new two-tier system

of self-regulation. It is too late to correct that quickly. As Mr Alexander was being appointed, the draft order to vest powers under the Act in the Securities and Investments Board was being laid in Parliament. Without further changes, the new system will only come into effect near the end of this year.

There are two alternatives: to vest the Panel (or its sponsor the Bank of England) with statutory powers, which seems inappropriate for such a body, or more practically, to demand obedience to its rulings be written into the rulebooks of the new City organizations to be supervised by the SIB.

That, however, will not fully solve the problem. This City headmaster has suffered a loss of authority. Mr Alexander's intellect and formidable presentation of a case are familiar to many in the City. He will be backed by two new experienced and wily deputy chairmen. They will want to maintain efficiency and good judgement in complex, fast moving bids. But they will have the less tangible but equally important job of restoring a proper fear of the Takeover Panel among those who do business in the City.

Composition of ferry inquiry

From Mr David Steel, QC
Sir, As counsel instructed to present the evidence to the forthcoming inquiry into the Zeebrugge ferry disaster, may I respond to Dr G. F. Wood's complaint (April 20) that it is absurd to appoint a High Court judge to head the tribunal.

First, it is not simply a technological investigation. Questions of fault and of criticism may arise. Those that may be at risk, I feel sure, would not welcome such matters being assessed purely by scientists or technologists, however eminent.

Second, Dr Wood is under a misapprehension if he thinks that Mr Justice Sheen is the only member of the court. He will have four assessors of considerable distinction, namely Dr Ewan Corbett, OBE, PhD, FRCGS, FRINA, Mr C. A. Sinclair, FRINA, FIMarE, Captain E. G. Venables, FNI, and Commodore G. G. Greenfield, RD, FNI.

Third, the observation that there might be a need to adjourn the inquiry while technical material was absorbed by counsel was not made because of the difficulty of absorbing it. The reason is that there is a possibility of delay in completing some of the research because the inquiry may well have already started before the wreck has been thoroughly surveyed.

It is, I hope, a matter worthy of note that Mr Justice Sheen has required that the investigation get under way faster than any marine inquiry since the Titanic. Like the appointment of a judge to chair the inquiry into that dreadful tragedy, the appointment of a judge to head the latest court is most welcome.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEEL,
2 Essex Court,
Temple EC4A,
April 22.

Election fever

From Professor C. W. Nobes
Sir, I seriously doubt the arguments in Patrick Cosgrave's call (feature, April 14) for fixed-term parliaments in the UK.

Under the current system we have a limboing up for a general election for some months but no full campaign until the last few weeks after a definite election date has been announced. Parties cannot risk full campaigns while the date is uncertain, because of fears of peaking too soon and of running out of money.

Although there are important transatlantic differences in political systems, the fixed-term US system hardly offers an example of reduced lame-duckery or electioneering. With fixed-term parliaments the election date is always certain, so there is a greater danger of lame-duck periods of parliament and of lengthy full-scale electioneering. There is, of course, also the problem of minority governments, as mentioned in the article. On balance, the case for fixed-term parliaments in the UK seems weak.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. NOBES,
University of Reading,
Department of Economics,
Whiteknights,
PO Box 218,
Reading, Berkshire,
April 15.

Aids research

From Mr Clive Hollands
Sir, Your report (April 16) on statements made by the leading French Aids researcher, Professor Luc Montagnier, referred (in earlier editions) to the request amounting to £30m received by the Pasteur Institute from the sale of the late Duchess of Windsor's jewels.

Your report and the accompanying in-depth article, "Racing to kill a killer", referred correctly to chimpanzees as being the only animals found suitable for testing the effectiveness of a vaccine although even when infected with the HIV virus, only some chimpanzees develop antibodies and none have developed the disease itself.

For the record, since your report did not mention it, it should be stated that the late Duchess's bequest to the Pasteur Institute was subject to a condition that none of the money should be used directly or indirectly to support research on animals.

Hopefully, rather than being an impediment to research, this humane provision will act as a stimulus in seeking more effective ways of fighting this modern scourge.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE HOLLANDS,
Queensferry Chambers,
10 Queensferry Street,
Edinburgh 2,
April 16.

Crash barriers

From the Minister for Roads and Traffic

Sir, Your report of April 4, "Official cover-up claimed over crash barriers on M-ways" was misleading in its reference to a Transport Road and Research Laboratory report (RR 75) purporting to disclose that many miles of motorway safety fences are defective. It omits to point out that the report in question concludes that the fences inspected were generally performing better in accidents than would be expected from our specification, or to make any reference to results of recent research showing that safety fences are very effective in reducing casualties.

We are not treating the matter of misshapen post footings lightly.

Cutting the ground from under opera

From Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH

Sir, As Hon President of the Kent Opera Company I was greatly alarmed to discover that on April 29 a proposal will be placed before the Arts Council of Great Britain recommending that this company should receive no further financial subsidy from a year hence. Naturally, I wish to make known my opposition to this proposal.

I was, of course, less surprised by the proposal when I read that the opera working party reporting to the Arts Council's touring board had based its recommendations on economics, not on artistic quality. That seems to me the essence of the situation. There has never been anything wrong with an injection of business sense into the arts. But to operate as if one were dealing with a collection of companies, to be sustained or disposed of merely in terms of economic viability, seems to me misguided.

An organisation like Kent Opera is far more than the economics of its productions in the course of a season (even though its average 80 per cent attendance and mere £25,000 deficit attest to its achievement on that level alone). Through a continuing expansion of its repertoire and the essential back-up of a well-organised education programme, this company is stimulating and sustaining interest in music and the theatre over a wide area of the population. Does the council really imagine that such energy and vision can be replaced overnight by simply extending the touring activities of another company?

The fact is that the Arts Council is now reaping the consequences of its failure in recent years to stand up for the artists whose cause it is supposed to represent, and whose work is concerned with values other than those measurable in economic terms.

Sir, I am old enough to recall what it was like to be an aspiring composer in the decades before

the Arts Council came into existence and I pay tribute here to what has been achieved since then. I should not want the clock turned back now, with lack of adequate finance as the main excuse.

I must remind those in the higher echelons of the council of a prediction I made to them personally three years ago. I said that if they did not argue the case for their clients in other than economic terms, and they were faced with loss of grant, then the clients would cease to work together as they should and simply fight their own individual corners. This is exactly what is happening now with the regional opera companies. They are all starved of funds. They all have international reputations to keep alive. And they can only stay the course at each others' expense.

This is a deplorable state of affairs. Thus, in asking the Arts Council to weigh carefully the proposals being made to them in relation to Kent Opera, I am equally aware of the situation of many other groups in the regions. Unlike those in the metropolis, they find it difficult to raise alternative funds from the private sector. Their work nevertheless deserves sensitive, sympathetic treatment and should not be wilfully and constantly put at risk.

Ultimately, I can well see that the answer lies not with the Arts Council but with the government in power. Let me therefore suggest to my colleagues that in election year we have an opportunity to show that there really are votes in the arts. And if, indeed, the political parties can be persuaded to include in their manifestos a clear statement as to their valuation of the arts, then every one of us can respond accordingly at the ballot box.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TIPPETT,
48 Great Marlborough Street, W1,
April 20.

Teachers' duties

From Mrs Dorothy Shaw

Sir, As a retired headteacher I do not understand why members of the NUT are so opposed to attainment tests for children. Surely teachers already use similar methods of assessment for each child so that they know whether the child has fully understood one process before proceeding to the next more complicated step.

It is not like the 11-plus, where children were considered to have passed or failed, but a methodical way of selecting those children who need more help and encouragement to understand the basic subjects.

What are the teachers so afraid of? Are they so lacking in confidence in their own skills that they are afraid that the results will reflect their own inadequacies?

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY SHAW,
7 Bradfield Avenue,
Buckingham,
April 20.

From Mr Alan R. Thomas
Sir, Whilst reading the articles today (April 21) concerning teachers' guidelines, I paused to calculate my hours for last term. Forced upon me by a dictatorial head? No, voluntarily offered for the children, apart from the lessons, obviously.

Monday: Six 35-minute lessons; girls' choir practice, 50 minutes; game, 45 minutes; play rehearsal, 90 minutes.
Tuesday: Six 35-minute lessons; woodwind group, 45 minutes; play rehearsal, 90 minutes.
Wednesday: Five 35-minute lessons; game, 45 minutes; four-part choir practice, 60 minutes; play rehearsal, 75 minutes.

Thursday: Seven 35-minute lessons; girls' choir practice, 45 minutes; game, 45 minutes; woodwind group, 30 minutes; play rehearsal, 90 minutes; prep supervision, 45 minutes.
Friday: Three 35-minute lessons; orchestra practice, 45 minutes.
Saturday: Five 35-minute lessons; game, 45 minutes; duty master from 7.30am to 9.30pm.
Sunday: Choir practice, 30 minutes; church service, 45 minutes; play rehearsal, 150 minutes.
My wife and I also took a party

of children to France for a week in the holidays (182 hours in fact). I, and my colleagues, mark and prepare sometimes, too!

Exploited? No, fulfilled.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN R. THOMAS,
Bramcote School,
Gamston,
Retford, Nottinghamshire,
April 21.

From Mr M. E. Roach
Sir, You report today (April 21) that the teaching unions are to advise their members to work no more than 1,265 hours per year.

My 12-year-old daughter, at present attending a State middle school and the junior department of one of the London music colleges, estimates that she devotes around 1,700 hours per year to work in school, homework and music. Her elder sisters confirm that they would not now be at university had they worked to the rules the teachers are proposing.

How do the teachers expect to retain the respect of their pupils given this discrepancy between the time each is prepared to devote to education?
Yours faithfully,
M. E. ROACH,
11 Clarence Crescent,
Windsor, Berkshire,
April 21.

From Mr V. D. Dennison
Sir, In line with inflation, as the phrase goes, my teacher's pension was increased this month by 2.10 per cent. The net payment was £387.21 (this after nearly 40 years of service), an increase of 34p on my March payment.

My rate bill also arrived this week - an increase of under 2 per cent, we were happily informed by a laughing cartoon face. But my rate bill has gone up by £1.21 a month.

How does one keep up with inflation?
Yours faithfully,
V. DENNISON,
Heathercrest,
The Batch,
Churchill, Bristol, Avon,
April 19.

their eventual resolution". That commission, with Bishop Santer and myself as co-chairmen, is carrying out its mandate at the present time. This fact in itself represents an important step forward. Until our findings have been reported and accepted, current regulations remain in force.

The founders of ARIC II urged that our work be supported by fervent prayer and a spirit of collaboration. No matter how deep personal feelings, emotive language is unlikely to help to achieve the resolution we ardently desire. Nor, I submit, would it have helped to leave these former clergymen without the ministry they earnestly seek whilst this question of mutual recognition is debated.

Yours faithfully,
CORMAC MURPHY-
O'CONNOR,
St Joseph's Hall,
Storrington,
Pulborough, Sussex,
April 21.

In the blood
From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen
Sir, "Genetic fingerprinting" is surely both a clumsy and an inaccurate expression for tests which "enable individual genetic characteristics to be identified from blood and saliva samples" (report, April 21).

Why not "geneprinting"? I am etc,
GERSHON ELLENBOGEN,
9 Montagu Square, W1,
April 21.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 24 1913

Attempts to set up a national theatre were frustrated by the two world wars. In 1937 Bernard Shaw got as far as turning the first sod on a site opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum, but it was 1976 before the National Theatre was officially opened on a new site on the South Bank. Mr Mackinder's private Bill failed because fewer than the required 100 voted for it.

A National Theatre.

As might have been expected, the discussion in the House of Commons last night over MR. MACKINDER'S motion for State countenance and support of a National Theatre was discursive and inconclusive. Members paraded their personal prejudices about our more respectable dramatists from BROWNING and TENNYSON to MR. GALSWORTHY and MR. ZANGWILL, and ransacked the Continent for good examples from Berlin to Budapest. The truth is that Parliament is not the most congenial atmosphere for discussing the drama, or indeed any other of the arts. Facts and figures are more in place there than the elusive creatures and the airy nothings of the dramatist's imagination. The three unities cannot be brought into any sort of relation to the twelve o'clock rule. SHAKESPEARE cannot catch the Speaker's eye. Though Select Committees have been known to reincarnate Dogberry with some success, an aesthetic appreciation of that or any other character is hardly to be expected from them...

But it will be said that this question of State aid for a National Theatre is an eminently practical question. So, to be sure, it is, and one of absorbing interest to architects. They are all hoping that the Office of Works will not get the building of it, and we share their hope. It would never do for the National Theatre to resemble the General Post Office. MR. MACKINDER and his friends profess to have an excellent site in view, but prefer to keep it secret. Some wiseracres indicate the south side of the Thames; but it is put there it is like to be not a theatre but a cenotaph. The weak point of the whole scheme, however, has nothing to do with architecture. It is that the promoters are beginning at the wrong end - making a repository before they have goods to fill it. The medieval passion for building cathedrals was a sacred, not a preliminary, to the conversion of the populations to Christianity. Before the nation provides a National Theatre it should see that it secures a National Drama. The theatre will then come, almost unbidden. Wherever drama flourishes it makes its own home as naturally as birds build their own nests. The elder DUMAS asked only for two things, two theatres, and a pension. STENDHAL declared that the best Shakespearean performance he had ever seen was given by some ragged Italian strollers in a wayside barn. There was a Comédie Française before there was ever a Théâtre Français. A year or two ago all the millionaires in New York clubbed together to build a National American Theatre. It was a beautiful monument in a delightful situation, with a choice company of players, a "high-brow" director, a literary adviser, all complete. But it was soon closed, and remains closed, for the simple reason that no National American Drama has been forthcoming to put in it. Here, however, it is necessary to distinguish. The movement which led to last night's debate is, as most people know, the combination of two others, a Shakespeare Memorial movement and a National Theatre movement. The first part of this combined scheme we can understand; indeed, we have consistently advocated it. Whatever may be thought or hoped or feared about our future drama, there is no question about SHAKESPEARE; he exists, he is a fact. It is our duty to get him worthily housed.

There is a proverb of Seneca Panza's quoting: "The house is finished and death enters." It is of no use building a mausoleum or a museum of stillborn curiosities. Not that our contemporary drama is dead; indeed, it is giving some hopeful signs of life. But theatres, bricks and mortar, have nothing to do with it. Committees, sub-committees, public meetings, honorary secretaries, fancy balls cannot help it. Art, as we have pointed out, is an individual thing. It happens; no man knows why or wherefore...

Chirpy to the last
From Sir Andrew Gilchrist
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Eric Lowden (April 21) may care to be reminded that the thrushes sang late in Dumfriesshire in about 1790:

Hark, the mavis' evening sang
Sounding Clouden's woods among;
Then a-faunting let us gang,
My bonnie Dearie.

When I last visited Linkluden Abbey, it was an April evening and Burns' thrush was still singing by the ruined walls. Yours faithfully,
ANDREW GILCHRIST,
Hazelbank, By Lanark.

In praise of aunts
From Mr David Conway
Sir, Desirous of thanking my sister for her devotion beyond the call of duty in taking my son to the theatre, I sought in vain for the female equivalent of "avuncular". I would be grateful if any of your readers could advise as to how to characterize the nature of an aunt - we have rejected "antric" as unsuitable.

Yours truly,
DAVID CONWAY,
126 Green Dragon Lane, N21.

THE ARTS

Identity parade

On Wednesday the first of Duncan Campbell's much-delayed series *Secret Society* (BBC2) unveiled an electronic device which can check the number-plates of passing cars against the police Suspect Vehicles Index. This would have been redundant in last night's 40 Minutes (BBC2), where the number-plates of kerb-crawlers in Birmingham's notorious Balsall Heath area were plainly visible.

Can we now expect those drivers to be prosecuted? After all, the working girls (also plainly identified by the hidden camera) are routinely had.

TELEVISION

up for the quaint English offence of "dipping and peering" into the cars of prospective clients; to pay their fines they have to keep soliciting when things get really tough, as in the case of the prostitute who co-operated with this programme, they have to consult a solicitor.

The subject matter of this resourceful and depressing report has been widely covered elsewhere, but this must have been the first time that a pimp has unburdened himself so frankly on camera. His girlfriend started on the game "of her own free will" at 15. She now earns him £60 or so a night while he plays pool with his mates. He takes advantage of her "because the advantage is there to take". The occasional slap is "in order", but he would never force her to work for him. One imagines that this interviewee's face, though unlit, should be identifiable; but perhaps the West Midlands Constabulary were all clustered round *Crimestoppers* UK on BBC1.

The archaeological detectives featured in the fascinating *Sutton Hoo - Last of the Pagan* (BBC2) were confronted with the puzzling evidence of a seventh-century graveyard round the corner from the celebrated ship-burial site. Buried in contorted postures suggesting the possibility of ritual execution, these ancient corpses have been transformed by the acidic soil into sand sculptures of a dreamy beauty. The ultimate tease was that some of the graves are aligned east-west instead of the north-south of pagan practice. From small acorns do mighty oaks grow.

Martin Cropper

Man's belligerence vehemently denounced

CINEMA

Platoon (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

Tough Guys (15)
Leicester Square
Theatre

Oliver Stone, in an interview on this page on Wednesday, said "You have to recognize that there is a permanent civil war in the United States". The phenomenon of *Platoon* at first sight seems to corroborate this view. A passionate denunciation of war as a persistent human activity, and of America's Vietnam adventure in particular, *Platoon* has proved one of the country's biggest box-office attractions. Yet only months before it *Top Gun*, which as unequivocally glorified war and persuaded its uneducated juvenile audience that the United States was already in a state of conflict with the Soviet Union, held the very same place at the top of the charts. Not so long before that, the audience as enthusiastically cheered *Rambo's* lesson that the only good Red is a nuked Red.

This is, in fact, not so much civil war as schizophrenia. The audience that goes to *Platoon* and *Top Gun* is one and the same; the common denominator that draws them is the simple thrill of violent action; and Stone's optimism that it shows the "volatility in the political spectrum" *Platoon* has attracted quite a new audience into the cinema - a lot of older, thoughtful people - is naive. The hortatory intelligence of *Platoon* and the gung-ho mindlessness of *Top Gun* compete for the same minds in the same market-place.

Certainly the central theme of *Platoon* is the division of American society. The motivating conflict is not so much that between the Americans and the North Vietnamese as between the Americans themselves. "I think now looking back we didn't fight the enemy; we

fought ourselves, and the enemy was within us", reflects the protagonist, Chris (Charlie Sheen). Chris is an undisguised self-portrait of the young Oliver Stone who at 21, a middle-class college drop-out, volunteered for Vietnam because he sincerely believed in America's fight against Communism. At the front Chris (whose letters to his grandmother provide the film's voice-over commentary) finds himself with "Guys nobody really cares about - they come from the end of the line... two years' high school's about it, maybe if they're lucky a job waiting for 'em back in a factory, but most of 'em got nothing. They're poor. They're the unwanted."

In the jungle combat zone the social divisions are less significant than the politico-moral conflict. The "grunts" divide naturally - regardless of racial or social difference - into the macho, morose, happily psychotic killers and the instinctive liberals who escape from the realities of war into an improvised dope-smoking hippy society. The factions are symbolized by two veteran sergeants, the redneck Barnes (Tom Berenger), scoured in face and mind, and Elias (Willem Dafoe),



"There is no honour or heroism, only the struggle to survive": Charlie Sheen's haunting Chris in *Platoon*

full of dope and honourable intentions. These two, says Chris, "are fighting for my soul". This curious spiritual battle takes place in a world of moral chaos. War for Stone is unvaryingly degrading. There is no honour or heroism, only the struggle to survive.

Far from HQ, the battle zone is a place of dirt and parasites, rivalries, confusion and sudden death. Officers have no authority; the natural leaders are the tough, the cunning, the bullies. Men are bitter, foul-mouthed, stu-

pefied by drugs and capable, when frightened or crazy enough, of terrible atrocities - cold-blooded murder and rape.

Chris's first sight of the battle zone is of dead GIs being loaded in plastic body-bags. At the end, wounded and lifted out by helicopter, he watches the Vietnamese dead being bulldozed into pits. Between these points the story is formed around four actions, based on actual events witnessed by Stone in 1967-68, which are for Chris the circles of his Vietnam hell.

comparable Vietnamese victim in *Apocalypse Now*. In a fine ensemble, Kevin Dillon (brother of Matt) is chilling as a psychotic delinquent who has found his niche in the battle zone, where "you get to do what you want".

As a single-handed effort of writing and direction, *Platoon* is a remarkable achievement; though no small part of the credit for its narrative force must go to Claire Simpson, whose dynamic editing amply merits its Academy Award.

Tough Guys is an inoffensively silly comedy vehicle for Kirk Douglas (aged 70) and Burt Lancaster (73), supported by Eli Wallach (71) and Alexis Smith (65). Douglas and Lancaster come out of jail after a 30-year sentence for America's last train hold-up. Both find it hard to come to terms with a world much different from the one they left; but in the end the duo triumph over time and destiny with a reprise of their crime, as the old train steams on its final run. The script is sloppy, indulgent and repetitive as it takes on all the predictable comic targets. The old gentlemen face and outmatch muggers, teenagers, bank robbers, welfare officials and an aged, myopic gunslinger (Wallach) with a 30-year-old contract on their lives. The script is by James Orr and Jim Cruickshank; and Jeff Kanew directs more sympathetically than might have been hoped from his previous experience on *Revenge of the Nerds*.

David Robinson

David Robinson's weekly film column will in future appear on Thursday's Arts Page.

THEATRE

Spookhouse
Hampstead

this is the last straw; and when a mild young social worker turns up with his release documents, it becomes clear that she is determined never to take him back. At which point the plot settles down into a battle of wits.

On neither side does it carry conviction. Connie says that if Wayne is there she will have nothing to give her other children; but all she does give them is the occasional Coke and avalanches of abuse which drive her pregnant daughter (Joanne Ridley) out of the house. Sam, her adversary, meanwhile fights back by roaming the fun-fair

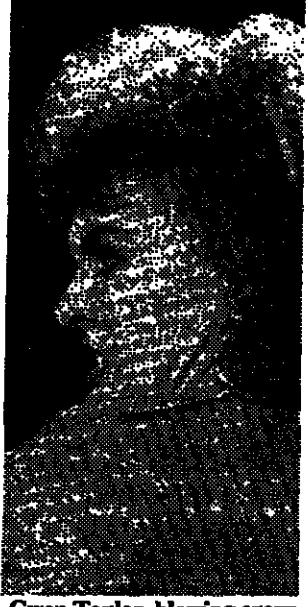
THEATRE

Spookhouse
Hampstead

and enduring an interminable biographical tirade from Connie's defeated husband. Robin Don has transformed this tiny stage into an amazing box of tricks where vampires and skeletal killers materialize amid satanic wails and the chugging arrival of the ghost train itself. But there is no way of telling whether Finstein is saying that the family has been destroyed by this dreadful environment, or that people like this get the living conditions they deserve.

As in *Torch-Song* Finstein remains a one-character playwright. What he achieves here is an unstoppable eruption of wounded, mendacious, viciously funny Manhattan defiance from Connie who, in Gwen Taylor's brass-lunged performance, quite properly blows every other character off Robin Lefevre's stage.

Irving Wardle



Gwen Taylor, blowing every other character off the stage

Fugard's solemn joy of fettered existence

The Yale Repertory Theatre is on a roll, and audiences in both its home city of New Haven, Connecticut, and in nearby New York are beneficiaries. Its production of August Wilson's *Fences* (Forty-Sixth Street Theatre), staged by Yale Rep's artistic director Lloyd Richards and starring James Earl Jones in the role of a lifetime, has just been claimed on Broadway. The night after *Fences* opened, the Rep in its own theatre presented the world premiere of Athol Fugard's *A Place with the Pigs*, directed by and co-starring the author. A week like this gives kindling enough to stoke a whole season.

Both plays sprawl and belabour symbols here and there, and each has aspects which strain credibility. Much more important, both have size, imagination and sovereign voices.

Inspired by the true story of a Second World War Russian soldier who became a deserter and spent 31 years hiding in a pigsty, Fugard's play is labelled "a personal parable". A lyrical comedy, it reaches from metaphysical speculation to grotesque antics (including between-scenes sound by David Budries musing music and punning).

In the uninterrupted 90 minutes or so are four scenes showing the deserter Pavel and his wife after successive decades of his self-imposed exile. Each scene is organized around an action - plans for Pavel to surrender at a war memorial ceremony, his killing of a pig, a walk outside the

Holly Hill reports from New York and New Haven on the valuable work of the Yale Repertory Theatre

sty, and his finding of "a crooked freedom that ties up a man's freedom and his surrender in the same battle".

In Fugard's first play set outside South Africa, "some-where in the author's imagination", there is a solemn joy of life fettered only by the individual's failure to grasp it.

On the opening night at Yale, the play's humour was considerably muted, but will doubtless be further developed during the run and in subsequent productions. Mr Fugard appeared nervous, giving an intelligent but technical and subdued performance. Earning laughs by the simplest gesture or change of expression, Suzanne Shepherd created a warm-hearted wife whose maternal actions were touched with earthiness and humour and whose anger was mastered by a buoyant serenity.

In the penultimate moment of August Wilson's *Fences*, Gabriel blows his horn to signal Saint Peter to open the Pearly Gates, and no sound comes out of the battered instrument. He howls to Heaven, and his cry is as a trumpet. The symbolic and real actions capture the rage,

anguish and yearning of black people in America almost a century after the Civil War.

The adde-brained Gabriel and his brother Troy's wife, children and best friend are satellites around Troy, a star whose existence is a titanic struggle against burning out. *Fences* tells - and tells as much as shows through characters relating stories - about Troy's life. It features little victories at work and as a Negro League baseball player, and big defeats, gains and losses being principally weighed in his roles as husband, father and brother. His relationships have similarities to Willy Loman's, and some will see *Fences* as Wilson's variation on *Death of a Salesman*, a fair comment if one adds that it has a sensuality and robust humour alien to Arthur Miller's universe.

As in his 1985 Broadway drama *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, the black poet August Wilson thinks on a mythic scale. His central figures have their counterparts in classical tragedy.

James Earl Jones gives an astonishing performance as Troy. He is erotic, frightening, contemptible, hilarious, pathetic and of a giant's stature even on his knees. Like a black Bach playing upon himself, he performs intricate emotional counterpoint with perfect passion and control. As his wife, Mary Alice is a match on a human scale, and the whole cast rises to Wilson's challenge under Lloyd Richards' dynamic and meticulous direction.

CONCERT

RPO/Mackerras
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

No disrespect intended, but it struck me as wholly appropriate that the most commercially-minded of our orchestras should have taken it upon themselves to give the first performance of a work by one of the most commercially-minded of our composers, Geoffrey Burgon. *Title Divine*, the new piece in question, was commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society. Quite evidently it is not a commercially motivated work, but neither, alas, is it very remarkable in more purist terms.

Burgon, one suspects, found putting together this cycle of six settings of poems by Emily Dickinson no straightforward matter. Or, if he did find it simple, it ought perhaps to have been much harder.

Perhaps the most testing of the songs for the listener was the second, "Better than Music". Here, despite Burgon's fluency, gained no doubt from his prolific output of incidental scores, the music did not sound in the least as though it was trying to convey something beyond the ecstasies of its own art. Both rhythmically and melodically, the writing seemed particularly dull here. And throughout the cycle there was too much recourse to literal and regular repetition of brief ideas for no good reason.

The last song, "I Went to Heaven", ended with two flutes in austere close canon and a fading snare-drum figure that in other circumstances might have proved an effective dissolve. Here, though, no tension has been created, and the gesture sounded oddly disembodied, quite unrelated to anything that had gone before.

The performance, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, was worthy enough, though Heather Harper seemed to be in rather subdued voice, shaping her phrases with unsympathetic stiffness - that is, until a glance at the score revealed how few are the expressive indications Burgon gives his soloist.

There were glimpses of playing of higher quality in Haydn's "Drum-roll" Symphony, No 103, and in Stravinsky's *Perpetua*, given in its version of 1911, though still the latter could have done with a coat or two of European Community Youth Orchestra gloss.

Stephen Pettitt

Werner Schroeter
Monday 27 April - Sunday 28 May



Werner Schroeter's new film, *The Film of Werner Schroeter*, is now on show at the ICA. Tickets £2.50. Bookings: 01 730 3647. ICA, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AU. Tel: 01 730 3647. ICA, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AU. Tel: 01 730 3647. ICA, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AU. Tel: 01 730 3647.

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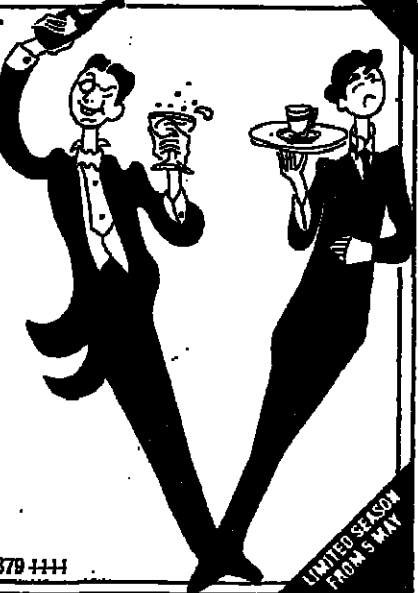
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PART 2

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-29
SPORT 33-38
TELEVISION 37

FRIDAY APRIL 24 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1555.2 (+8.4)
FT-SE 100
1988.3 (+12.6)Bargains
38943 (33090)USM (Datastream)
162.52 (-0.21)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6355 (+0.0085)W German mark
2.9683 (+0.0017)Trade-weighted
72.5 (+0.1)Vaux in
£60m
cash call

More than £60 million is being raised by Vaux, the Sunderland brewing and hotels group that remains a firm City takeover favourite.

Keen to expand its successful Swallow Hotels chain southwards, Vaux is asking shareholders to put up almost £36 million with a rights issue of new shares.

One new share is being offered for every five already held at a price of 470p — a discount of about 100p on current market levels.

The group is also raising £25 million through a new debenture stock. Vaux also announced half-time pretax profits up from £22.4 million to £7.306 million. The interim payment rises from 4.15p to 4.7p and a total for the year of 14.1p is being forecast — an increase of almost 13 per cent on the previous year.

The group's chain of 34 Swallow hotels made up some 43 per cent of trading profits over the half-year and Vaux directors are now planning to commit further substantial sums towards expanding the chain southwards.

Vaux shares dropped 10p to 568p on the news.

Temps, page 22

Hawley's 59%

The offer by Hawley, for British Car Auctions has been declared unconditional after Hawley bought or received acceptances for 59.2 per cent of BCA ordinary shares and 19.4 per cent of preference shares. The offer for ordinary shares remains open and for preference shares for 14 days.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2279.12 (-6.82)
Nikkei Dow 24024.61 (-73.18)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2719.89 (+3.0)
Amsterdam Gen 288.4 (-1.5)
Sydney AO 1743.4 (-11.4)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1828.8 (-10.7)
Brussels
General 4587.80 (+15.87)
Paris CAC 454.7 (-4.6)
Zurich S&K Gen 582.00 (-1.4)
London FT 1555.2 (+8.4)
FT 100 1988.3 (+12.6)
Recent issues
Closing prices Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/8-9 1/4%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 7 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.50-5.49%
30-year bonds 8 1/4-8 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London
£/\$ 1.6355 (+0.0085)
£/DM 2.9683 (+0.0017)
£/Sfr 2.4271 (+0.0017)
£/FFr 87.19 (+0.0017)
£/Yen 141.05 (+0.0017)
£/Ind 101.0 (+0.0017)
ECU 16.700195 SDR 10.782025

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS
Morgan Crucible 256p (+13p)
Aberdeen Const. 258p (+15p)
Wiggins 215p (+15p)
Nirx 250p (+15p)
T Cowie 488p (+28p)
Jaguar 579p (+11p)
Scott & Robertson 240p (+20p)
Ratnam 284p (+19p)
Shah 320p (+17p)
British Vita 407p (+11p)
Clarke Nickolls 200p (+15p)
Sturge Holdings 415p (+17p)
Nordic Systems 238p (+19p)
Savage Group 345p (+55p)
Tay Homes 382p (+37p)
Sun Life Assur. 1190p (+137p)

FALLS
Whesave 110p (-18p)
Vaux Group 568p (-10p)
Hillsdown Hidge 286p (-14p)
Rank Org. 672p (-21p)
Prices are as at 4pm

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$453.00 pm \$450.50
close \$452.50-453.25 (2278.75-277.50)
New York
Comex \$457.20-457.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm \$17.75bbi (\$18.25)
Denotes latest trading price

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Guinness hit
for £125m
Illicit share dealing
cuts profits by half

By Lawrence Lever

Guinness has given its first estimate of the cost of the illicit share support operation behind its bid for Distillers, by making a provision of £125 million in its preliminary figures released yesterday.

However pretax profits of £335 million coupled with optimistic statements for the future from Mr Anthony Tennant, the group chief executive, saw the company's shares rise 11p to 331p — the same price as on December 1 when government inspectors walked into the company's headquarters in Portman Square.

The figures cover a 15-month period to December 31, 1986, because Guinness is switching its year end to match that used by Distillers. In the 12-month figures to September 30, 1986, Guinness made pretax profits of £241 million.

Yesterday's results include eight months of Distillers, which contributed £216 million to the company's trading profits of £408 million.

The second interim dividend, delayed from January, will be paid on May 28. In addition the company is paying a final dividend in June of

2.88p, making 14.06p overall — an annualized increase of 9.3 per cent. Earnings per share were 38p compared to 29.9 pence for the 12 months to December 1986.

"The group is now in a very favourable position" Mr Tennant said, adding that "the board is convinced that from a business point of view the past can be put firmly behind us."

However, the company's auditor, Price Waterhouse, are to qualify the full audited figures which will be included in next month's annual report. This, it says, is because "proper accounting records were not kept" of the payments and other "unusual transactions" and

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arrangements made in return for supporting the Guinness share price during the Distillers bid.

The £125 million provision does not take into account any liability that Guinness may have from a legal action by the Argyl Group — the defeated party in the battle for control of Distillers. Argyl has already told its shareholders that it intends to sue Guinness.

In notes to the company's accounts which were released

yesterday, Guinness says that a claim from Argyl "will be vigorously defended. Furthermore, based on opinions received from leading counsel and the company's professional advisers, the board has determined that it is not necessary to make any provision in the accounts in respect of these matters."

Argyl sources yesterday dismissed this treatment in the accounts as a legal necessity — since any provision would strengthen Argyl's case.

The auditor draws attention to the fact that no provision has been made in respect of Argyl, in their report at the end of the accounts.

The provision itself adopts a conservative approach by writing down Guinness's entire £68 million investment in the Bessy fund and £17 million of the £25 million mystery payments which Guinness has not yet recovered.

The final item in the provision is £40 million, which relates to the £7.6 million deposit with Henry Ansbacher, a £50 million deposit with Bank Leu and the dispute with the bank over unlawful indemnities given to it to buy Guinness shares.

New men move in at merchant bank



Sir Peter Carey: succeeding Lord Catto as chairman

Catto gives up
Morgan chair

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Morgan Grenfell yesterday took the final steps in its internal reorganization after the disruption caused by the resignation of Lord Catto as chairman and chief executive.

The merchant banking group ended months of uncertainty by announcing that Sir Peter Carey was succeeding Lord Catto as group chairman and that Mr John Craven, the chairman of Phoenix Securities, was to be group chief executive.

The appointments take effect from May 5.

Sir Peter has been instrumental in limiting the damage to Morgan after its involvement in the Guinness affair. He heads the executive committee set up to run the group after pressure from the Bank of England earlier this year and played a key role in the introduction of tighter management controls at Morgan.

He will remain chairman of the banking arm of the group

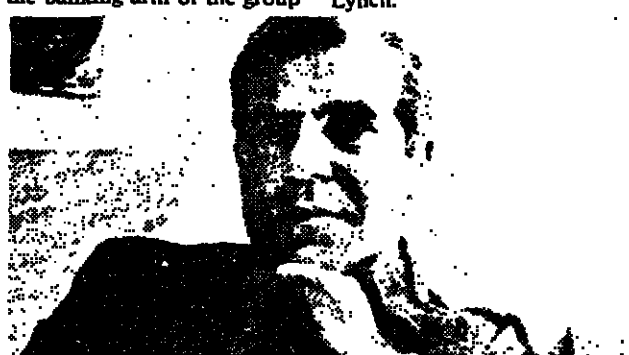
until a new chairman is chosen.

Mr Craven's appointment fills the gap left by the resignation of Mr Christopher Reeves three months ago. Phoenix Securities is being purchased by Morgan for an undisclosed amount as part of the deal although it will continue to operate independently.

Lord Catto, aged 63, who has been chairman of Morgan since 1980, is to become president of the group, a post created specifically for him.

Sir Peter said of the group chief executive's appointment: "John Craven was our first choice, although we looked at candidates in Britain and abroad. Mr Craven will assume all executive responsibilities at Morgan and I have no doubt we will work well together."

Mr Craven, aged 46, gained merchant banking experience at SG Warburg, Credit Suisse White Weld and Merrill Lynch.



John Craven: "first choice" as group chief executive

£144m placing
at Hillsdown

By Michael Tate

Mr David Thompson is selling almost half his shareholding in Hillsdown Holdings, the food and furniture company he founded 12 years ago, for £144 million. It will be the biggest private share placing ever seen.

At the same time Mr Thompson is stepping down as joint chairman of the company. His co-founder, Mr Harry Solomon, is appointed sole chairman and Mr Thompson will become a non-executive director.

The exclusive Mr Thompson and his wife are selling 55.4 million shares in Hillsdown, whose string of interests include Buxted chickens, Daylay eggs, Harris meats and Nitrovit animal feeds, at 260p each. The shares have been placed with institutional investors by the company's stockbroker, Hoare Govett, but clawback arrangements have been made for existing shareholders.

All holders will be entitled to buy one share for every five held.

After the sale, Mr Thomp-

son and his family will remain Hillsdown's largest single shareholder but the holding will have been reduced from 29.5 per cent to around 15.4 per cent, worth — at the sale price — a further £157 million. Mr Thompson has promised to hold the remaining shares until January 1989.

Mr Thompson, who is still only 50, founded Hillsdown with Mr Solomon, a solicitor, and a year his junior, in 1975, after he had left his family meat business (now part of the group) with an estimated £500,000. By the time they brought it to the stock market in February 1985 it was worth more than £250 million. Today it has a stock market price tag of almost £500 million, and last year became Britain's 100th largest company.

Mr Thompson, whose decision to stand down as joint chairman comes after 18 months of "indifferent health," says that the framework for the company's future growth is now "firmly established" and that he can take a back seat.

Tate limits
stake in
Berisford

By Teresa Poole

Tate & Lyle yesterday agreed not to raise its stake in S&W Berisford, the commodities group, to more than 39 per cent as part of a package of undertakings given to the Department of Trade and Industry. It follows the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report earlier this year which blocked rival bids for Britain's best refining monopoly.

The new limit would allow Tate, which holds 14.9 per cent of Berisford, to purchase the 23.7 per cent stake owned by Ferruzzi, the Italian agricultural group. The ceiling previously agreed by Tate was 23.7 per cent in line with Ferruzzi's holding.

In February, bids from Tate and Ferruzzi for control of British Sugar, S&W Berisford's best refining subsidiary, were stopped on monopolies grounds and Ferruzzi was told to reduce its stake to 15 per cent within two years.

Tate has now undertaken not to exercise voting rights attached to more than 15 per cent of shares in Berisford — extending a commitment made last year at the time of the referral — and not to acquire any shares in British Sugar. These undertakings are not affected by the Secretary of State's powers to refer to the MMC any acquisitions above the 15 per cent level.

Mr David Davis, who is in charge of strategic planning at Tate, said: "All we are doing is keeping our options open."

Sir Richard Butler, chairman of the FUK subsidiary Agricola (UK), said there had been no approaches about the Berisford stake. Negotiations with the DTI on the details of reducing its holding are continuing.

British firms nearer
entry into Japan

By Our City Staff

Japan's Ministry of Finance expects to license 21 foreign firms, including 12 British, to conduct discretionary investment management operations in Japan next month. Mr Toyo Gyoten, Deputy Minister of Finance for International Affairs, said in Tokyo.

The Diet passed the Investment Advisory Services Act last year in line with Japan's

policy of opening up financial markets to foreign companies and de-regulating domestic markets. This established a regulatory framework requiring prior registration for investment advisory business and a special licence for discretionary investment management. Twenty-one foreign firms, including eight from Britain, have been registered this year.

Chain stores expansion boosts group profits to £70.1 million

Bigger and better Littlewoods

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

The Littlewoods Organisation, Britain's biggest private company with interests ranging from football pools to high street shopping, raised pretax profits by 15.9 per cent to £70.1 million last year.

The big improvement came from its chain stores, where profits before interest jumped 53 per cent to £19.7 million, and follows a continued high level of investment in refurbishing the stores chain, now up to 110 after the opening of new stores during 1986 at Dumfries and the out-of-town Metro Centre at Gateshead.

Investment in the group as a whole doubled in 1986 to £35 million. Because Littlewoods was able to fund this mainly from its own resources, bank borrowings were kept low and interest charges rose to only £8 million from £6.9 million.

As new businesses — including other shopping chains and financial services — are expanded, investment this year is expected to rise to £60 million, of which £32 million will go on the chain stores where the refurbishing programme is due for completion next year. Nearly £10 million is being spent on the Littlewoods store at the eastern end of Oxford Street



Clement with a replica of Littlewoods Challenge cup

after the refurbishing of the other branch near Marble Arch.

While return on sales has risen to just under 4 per cent at the chain stores, Littlewoods is still looking for a more satisfactory performance, said Mr Desmond Pitcher, the group's chief executive. The aim is to raise this to 8 per cent, which might take two to three years, he added.

Littlewoods has moved into the catalogue showroom sector — so far dominated by BAT's Argos — with The Catalogue Shop, which has four outlets, three opened last year. Another 17 are due to start selling this year, some of them within Littlewoods chain stores. Inside Story, a specialist homeware chain, is being expanded, with two more outlets due to open this year.

Mail order, the biggest Littlewoods core business, lifted pretax profits by 6.5 per cent to £43.9 million. This has now become the home shopping division, reflecting the growth of sales through electronic channels such as Prestel. While mail order as a sector is growing at about 1 per cent a year, home shopping overall is seeing growth rates of about 25 per cent.

Mr John Clement, the group chairman, said: "The 1986 sales growth was satisfactory and continued the trend of 1985 when total sales showed an increase after a period of standstill in the early 1980s. Mail order sales rose despite a poor start to the year."

"We are confident that 1987 will be the fifth year of growth in terms of sales and profits."

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

Boesky pleads guilty to conspiracy charge

Mr Ivan Boesky, the American arbitrator and the biggest Wall Street figure named in the government's investigation of illegal insider trading, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiring to make false statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr Boesky, who co-operated with the authorities in the inquiry, now faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 (£153,000).

Mr Boesky had already paid a record \$100 million in penalties to settle related civil charges brought last year by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Wrightson on GKN makes takeover path £4m US buy

Stewart Wrightson is holding talks with the directors of Martin Paterson Associates to acquire the company and its subsidiaries. Martin Paterson is a firm of actuaries and benefit consultants and its fee income is expected to be £3 million this year. Its business will be merged with that of the Stewart Wrightson Benefit Consultancy.

The GKN engineering and motor car parts group is paying £4.1 million for Sparks Tune-Up, a 143-strong franchised chain of engine tuning shops in the US. The purchase, from MAACO Enterprises, will complement GKN's existing Meineke Discount Muffler shops, which fit exhausts and shock absorbers.

Chrysalis profits soar

A healthy performance in all its main divisions, but particularly in its record companies, helped Chrysalis to more than double its profits to £5.04 million for the half year to December 31. The company is paying an interim dividend of 2p, the same as at this time last year.

Turnover was up to £68.65 million at the half-way stage from £45.57 million and earnings per share rose to 12.53p from 6.39p. Chrysalis is looking for further acquisitions in the leisure-based industry.

French agree Eurotunnel US economy grows 4.3%

The five main political groups in the French National Assembly have passed unanimously the first reading of two bills on the Channel Tunnel, one approving the Franco-British treaty giving the go-ahead, the other the concession for its construction and exploitation to the Franco-British consortium, Eurotunnel.

The US economy grew by a surprisingly strong 4.3 per cent in the first quarter, fuelled by growth in business inventories and a strong export performance. The growth was the highest since the second quarter of 1984. Officials gave a warning, however, that the figures may be have to undergo revision.

BSB appoints chief

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of GKN, is to join British Satellite Broadcasting in July as chairman. It was announced last night. The appointment is expected to strengthen BSB's image in the City as it seeks to complete its first round of external financing. Sir Trevor, aged 59, says he will devote a substantial amount of his time to BSB before he retires from GKN in May, 1988.

BSB, which hopes to launch its first satellite in 1989, has still to appoint a full-time chief executive. The venture, owned by Granada, Pearson, Virgin, Amstrad and Anglia Television intends to provide a three-channel service including news, feature films, general entertainment and children's programmes.

STOCK MARKET

Stores sector jumps on hopes of spree

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in the stores sector moved sharply ahead yesterday, in anticipation of a Conservative victory in a general election and the possibility of a renewed high street buying spree.

One of the fastest risers was Ratners, Britain's largest jewellery-shop chain, which surged by 21p to a new peak of 366p.

Mr Andrew Coppel, the finance director, said: "We seem to be benefiting from strong buying of shares in the retail sector in the run-up to the election. The market seems short of stock. There is certainly nothing mysterious about the rise in our price."

Dealers were encouraged by the performance in London, particularly as trading in Wall Street yesterday had got off to a sluggish start. Gilt also held on to rises of up to half a point.

There was strong support for the banks following a general re-rating by City analysts, NatWest climbing 17p to 613p, Barclays going 15p better at 520p, Lloyds advancing 29p to 534p and Midland surging to 674p, an improvement of 36p.

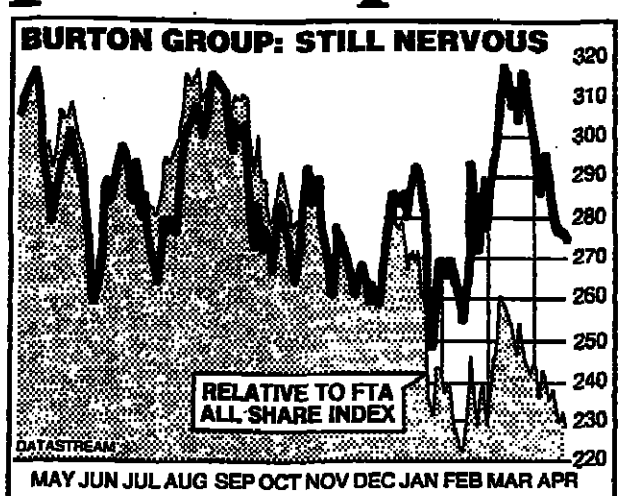
At the close, the FT 30 share index was up by 8.4 to 1,555.2 while the FT-SE 100 finished 12.6 ahead at 1,968.3.

Burton Group, the Debenhams and Dorothy Perkins stores chain, burst into life with a 9p rise to 285p. The shares have been depressed for some time by the fears of a DTI investigation and many followers think it is only a matter of time before they come in for some serious re-rating.

In a recent circular, Phillips & Drew, the broker, said that the shares are cheap - even in the unlikely event of these fears being realized.

The interim figures showed significant progress in the core-businesses and a steady improvement at Debenhams. The broker said that, although sales growth in March was slightly behind the first-half trend, the general background remains encouraging and the continued market share should put the group on course for a good, full-year outcome. It is looking for pretax profits of £187 million, up from £149 million.

APV Baker, the process-



plant supplier, came in for some profit-taking after its 81 per cent profit jump and the shares drifted back by 10p to 630p. County Securities says that 1987 will be a year of consolidation as APV and Baker Perkins are brought together and it looks for some

following a mention in this column yesterday, before setting back, unchanged, at 184p. British Vita, the foam, fibres and polymers group, attracted further support following a bullish annual meeting statement lifting the shares to 407p, an 11p rise. Jaguar powered ahead on the back of a strong order-flow, rising another 11p to 579p, taking its gain over the last two days to 25p.

Laura Ashley, the fashion chain, was subdued, having failed to meet some analysts' forecasts in its latest figures and drifted back by 1p to 170p. Combined English Stores, still strongly tipped as a merger partner for someone in the sector, advanced another 7p to 272p.

Body Shop was good for a 5p rise at 830p, Estam went 23p ahead at 265p on improved profits and encouraging prospects for the current year, while generally improved trading prospects helped Marks and Spencer up to 222p, a rise of 7p.

● **FRANKFURT:** Share prices on the Frankfurt stock exchange closed mostly lower in thin trading yesterday, wiping out some of the gains from Wednesday's rally. The Commerzbank index finished down 10.7 at 1826.8.

● **HONG KONG:** Share prices closed mixed in moderate trading. The Hang Seng index finished at 2,719.89, up 3.0.

Rotorik, the valve-control specialist, moved 4p higher,

TEMPUS

Guinness is still only for the very brave

The high drama surrounding Guinness makes it easy to forget that lurking in the wings is a multi-billion pound, international, branded consumer products group.

At the trading level, the business appears not to have been unduly affected by the excitement in the boardroom - a tribute to the operational management.

A new strategy for the drinks division to strengthen its marketing and distribution position and to sell Guinness' retail operations is being put into action.

This will reduce costs, give the group a sharper focus and reduce gearing which is uncomfortably high at more than 80 per cent.

It is ironic, that Guinness' supposedly ex-growth markets, in particular stout, are demonstrating above average trading performance both in Britain and in the US. Lager is also advancing strongly.

Whisky has fared less well although the worst appears to be over - volume declines of around 10 per cent have been replaced by falls of a few per cent.

It is still difficult to pinpoint the underlying trend as the comparable figures are distorted both by the imposition of a Federal Excise



Tax in 1985 and by frenetic export activity by Distillers during the Argyl bid.

The US is an important market and currencies will take their toll but some of the negative effect will be offset by increased efficiencies.

The £125 million extraordinary provision is conservative in that it allows for monies which may yet be recovered. But no allowance is made for an Argyl-initiated court case.

Guinness should increase 1987 earnings per share to 30p indicating pretax profits of at least £410 million. The shares look cheap but the cautious may still be deterred.

It is a brave man who says that all of the nasties are out of the way but Guinness' credibility would be well and truly scuppered if more com-

promising disclosures were made hereafter. The downside is limited but it may be some time before the shares perform. In the meantime, the brave should build up their holdings.

Vaux Group

A change in emphasis is under way at the Sunderland brewer Vaux Group, which also operates the chain of Swallow Hotels. Analysts will soon be viewing it as a hotel chain with brewing interests.

This is the inescapable conclusion from yesterday's big fund-raising exercise, to step up Swallow's expansion.

The group is undertaking a two-pronged cash raising operation, asking shareholders for £3.8 million via a one-for-five rights issue at 470p, and proposing to raise a further £25 million by the issue of new debenture stock.

The half-time results, published at the same time, show pretax profits up by 17.4 per cent at £7.3 million.

Vaux is the seventh-largest hotelier in Britain with 3,386 rooms in 34 hotels. Interest in the shares is focused on the intentions of Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries with a 5 per cent stake. The shares fell 10p to 568p, but remain attractive on trading and possible bid action.

Littlewoods still tantalizes

In the brash, bright world of modern retailing, Littlewoods is trying hard not to be left behind.

But when a company is family owned, the pressures are not so great. There are no analysts breathing down the management's neck and the shareholders cannot judge the management's performance in terms of movements in the share price.

Nevertheless, it is apparent that beefing-up the retailing side of the business has become a main management priority. The market share has fallen - it is still under 4 per cent, having been 5 per cent a few years ago.

Also the margin on sales last year was only 3.7 per

cent, a significant improvement on the previous year's 2.6 per cent admittedly, but still a long way away from the expressed target of 8 per cent, which it hopes to reach in three years' time.

With refreshing candour, the management admits that the stores had become tawdry and out of date and more than half of its planned £60 million capital expenditure for 1987 will be on its High Street stores.

The other big area of expansion will be based on the group's home shopping business - the ubiquity of the telephone has forced the name change from mail order.

Its enhanced computer systems allow customers a complete range of information about their accounts, and the growth rate of home shopping, a market estimated to be expanding at 25 per cent a year, can be easily predicted.

There cannot be many High Street retailers who would not like to get their hands on Littlewoods' outlets. There are no signs that the family intends to loosen its grip. There is no need. Borrowings are low and future expansion will be more or less self-financing.

It seems a shame that the market will be unable to participate in what looks like an interesting recovery situation.

GUINNESS PLC

PRELIMINARY RESULTS
FOR 15 MONTHS TO 31st DECEMBER 1986

Continued Profit Growth

- * Profit before Tax for 15 months is £355 million, including £114 million for the last quarter.
- * Total net dividend of 10.2p for 15 months, up 13 per cent on an annualised basis.
- * Earnings per stock unit for the 15 months were 38.0p.
- * Group Debt/Equity Ratio at 81 per cent is similar to that prior to the acquisition of Distillers.

"The Group is now in a very favourable position. Guinness has the brands, it has the management and it has the opportunity to build on its achievements in the field of world-wide brand marketing. We will demonstrate that the enlarged and newly focused Group is a world leader in its industry."

Anthony Tennant
Group Chief Executive

The 1986 Annual Report will be posted on 5th May. A copy may be obtained by writing to:
The Registrar, Guinness PLC, 11/13 Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7NE

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	1,800	English China	548	Rank Org	1,400
ASDA-MFI	6,500	Fisons	1,200	Rank Hovis	848
Argyll	438	Gen Accident	333	Redland	1,100
ASDA-MFI	5,200	GEC	2,800	Redcliffe Colman	188
Asa Gr Foods	188	Glen	1,100	Reed Int	428
BET	702	Globe IT	1,500	Reveries	72
BTR	2,800	Granada	2,600	RMC Group	290
BAT	2,500	Grant Mat	622	RTZ	1,000
Barclays	1,500	GUS 'A'	184	Rover	878
Bass	1,500	GUS 'B'	184	Royal B of Scot	848
Beaumont	141	GKN	21	Royal Int	1,100
Blue Circle	228	Guinness	13,000	Saschli	248
BOC	959	Hanson	9,100	Sainsbury (J)	880
Boots	2,700	Hawker Siddeley	818	Sears	3,000
BPB Ind	1,500	Hilldown	12,200	Sevens	800
BPCC	111	Imp Chem Ind	1,400	Shell	2,800
Br Aerospace	688	Imp Cont Gas	1,200	Smith & Nephew	444
Br Airways	2,900	Jaguar	1,100	STC	1,000
Br Comm	228	Ladbrokes	547	Stan Chart	517
Br Gas	28,000	Land Securities	805	Storehouse	2,100
Br Petroleum	2,200	Legal & Gen	1,200	Sun Alliance	244
Br Telecom	10,000	Lloyds	4,000	Tarmac	380
BSI	3,000	Lombard	465	TSB PPP	4,500
Bunzl	2,800	Marks & Spencer	4,700	Tesco	680
Burton	2,700	MEPC	511	Thom Hill	1,800
Cable & Wireless	3,800	Midland	2,100	Travelhouse	2,500
Cashbury Schwepp	6,700	Mid West	1,500	Travelhouse Forc	948
Castle Vynils	680	P & O Dirtd	384	Unilever	284
Com Union	1,400	Pearson	770	Unilever	284
Corn Goldfields	1,800	Pillington Bros	1,200	Unilever	284
Coultson Gp	38	Plessey	2,700	Wellcome	811
Courts	344	Prudential	180	Whitbread 'A'	284
Dee Corp	2,200	Racal Elect	120	Woolworth	1,100
Dixons Gp	1,200				

Stock prices on page 22

THIRD MARKET

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change
450	180	180	Alberici Group	380	410	n/c
50	10	10	Alberici Int Petrol	28	31	n/c
125	110	110	Allied Insurance	115	125	n/c
80	36	36	Catalyst Comen	50	54	-1
58	24	24	Corton Beach	80	85	n/c
185	121	121	Edinburgh Int	100	200	n/c
63	10	10	Eglington Oil Ireland	43	45	-2
41	8	8	Ox. Warrants	30	32	-2
30	17	17	Publishing Holdings	29	31	+1
57%	48	48	Thames Holdings	48	51	n/c
133	114%	114%	Unit Group	112	117	n/c

BANK OF WALES
BANC CYMRUGROUP RESULTS FOR THE 14 MONTHS
ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 1987

	14 Months ended	Year ended
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	2,434	1,932
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	2.8p	2.4p
EARNINGS PER 25p SHARE	5.9p	6.2p*

* Adjusted for rights issue in December 1985

Subject to the approval of shareholders at the Annual General Meeting the proposed dividend will be paid on 8 June 1987, to shareholders whose names appear on the Register at close of business on 15 May 1987.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 May 1987.

BANK OF WALES PLC
114/116 ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF CF1 1XJ

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	10.00%
Adam & Company	10.00%
BCCI	10.00%
Chinbank Savings†	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Chinbank NA	10.00%
† Mortgage Base Rate.	

Ford only
Uk car
maker to
see profit

Printing vent
managing

The cost
of loyalty

Ford only UK car maker to see profit

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Ford was Britain's only leading vehicle manufacturer to make a profit last year although its profits dropped to £108 million compared to £160 million in 1985.

Austin Rover, Peugeot Talbot and Vauxhall were all in the red.

Ford blamed currency fluctuations — which sharply increased the cost of cars built in Germany, Belgium and Spain as well as components from the Continent — for the fall in British profits.

Car sales, however, passed the half-million mark in Britain, with the Escort, Fiesta and Sierra models selling the most last year.

Ford and Vauxhall have reacted to the higher cost of importing cars and parts by increasing production in Britain and reducing costs.

Ford hopes a 20 per cent improvement in productivity will allow almost 80 per cent of its British sales this year to be met by cars built in Halewood and Dagenham.

British Fords last year accounted for only 65 per cent of sales. The share was as low as 57 per cent in 1984.

Vauxhall plans to build an extra 30,000 cars in Britain this year and has chosen to work overtime to boost output at its Luton plant rather than import more Cavaliers from the Continent.

For the first time, it is cheaper for Ford to build cars in Britain than to import similar models from the Continent.

Executives are encouraged by the sharp improvement in productivity from the British plants which once had a poor reputation for efficiency and quality.

The British workforce has been cut by 40 per cent since 1980 to 12,800, yet car output in 1986 was the highest for five years.

Mr Bill Hayden, the vice-president for manufacturing of Ford of Europe, said Ford's British car plants' objective was to have higher quality standards than Opel, Renault, Peugeot and Fiat by 1991 so that Ford cars would match Japanese standards of reliability.

Low labour costs and improved productivity have made Halewood and Dagenham more competitive

Rift widens over Japanese plans for Pacific cable

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

The rift between the two consortia seeking to enter Japan's international telecommunications market widened yesterday over the need to invest in a new trans-Pacific submarine cable.

It is looking increasingly likely that, without significant compromises, the two groups — one of which includes Cable and Wireless as a large shareholder — will not be able to agree on a merger as proposed by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Mr Nobuo Ito, president of International Telecommunications of Japan (ITJ), said his consortium remained opposed to the laying of a new cable between Japan and the United States.

ITJ intends instead to lease

capacity on existing lines. Mr Ito added: "All existing cables are built through joint international co-operation. We want to do what is the current common practice."

International Digital Communications (IDC), the rival consortium where Britain's C&W holds a 20 per cent stake, said the cable was central to its business.

This week, permission was granted to Pacific Telecom Cable (PTC), an American partnership in which C&W also has a 20 per cent stake, to land the planned \$500 million (£312 million) optical fibre cable in Seattle and Anchorage. IDC would be co-owner of the cable with PTC.

Mr Dennis Elliott, general manager of PTC, said: "We look forward to the licensing

of the Japanese consortium to serve as our partner in this venture so that the project can proceed."

Under the proposals of Mr Fumio Watanabe, the Japanese businessman charged with securing a merger between IDC and ITJ, eight companies from the two groups would become equal shareholders in a new firm, which would then study the feasibility of laying a new cable.

Mr Ito said ITJ was not opposed to studying the question of the cable but IDC insists it has already completed all the necessary studies.

C&W is pressing the postal ministry to grant two new international telecommunications licences

Government plans new oil licensing round for Ireland

By Our City Staff

A renewed spate of oil and gas exploration in Northern Ireland is hoped to follow an initiative launched yesterday by Mr Peter Viggers, the Northern Ireland Office Junior Minister responsible for energy, at the Northern Ireland Business Centre in London.

He offered executives of the main oil companies the results of a technical reassessment by Robertson Research International of all the available hydrocarbon geological and exploration data existing for Northern Ireland and invited applications for prospecting licences, of a maximum of 350 square kilometres, by July 31.

A petroleum licensing unit will be established in the provincial Department of Economic Development (DED).

Substantial prospecting during the late 1970s and earlier this decade followed an earlier round of exploration licences which have now expired or are about to run out.

Robertson's conclusions indicate that the use of modern techniques, such as subterra-

nean gas fracturing to release oil and gas deposits, could result in commercial viability.

While expressing the hope that some leading companies would come forward to take a new look at Ulster's hydrocarbon prospects, Mr Viggers gave a warning.

"While there are good indications that oil and gas exist, as always in petroleum exploration there can be no guarantee that commercial quantities will be found," he said.

The Minister's reception in London resulted in the



Peter Viggers: offered a new look at the available data

cancellation at short notice of a press conference by the state-owned Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) also scheduled in London yesterday.

It planned to publicize its view that the most economic course for the next phase of power generation in Northern Ireland would be to complete the half-abandoned oil and coal-fired power station at Kilroot, halted after only two of its planned four turbo-generators had been installed, rather than to commission a minehead power station to burn lignite.

GrandMet relaunch for chain of hotels

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Grand Metropolitan yesterday relaunches its Berni and Chef & Brewer chain as a new-style hotel network.

The redevelopment of 59 of its existing properties in the country is aimed at the fast-emerging budget market catering both for business and leisure customers.

Claimed to be Britain's fourth largest chain, it has been backed by the English Tourist Board as the first hotel group to be developed in line with the ETB's new crown classification ratings. These are aimed at encouraging hotels to provide quality accommodation with modern facilities at value for money prices.

Berni and Chef & Brewer Group (BCBG) has invested £10 million in bringing standards up to ETB levels, average spending being £7,000 a room. The ETB has given some grant aid and has to help with marketing weekend breaks.

The ETB has been eager to encourage the creation of budget-price hotels because this has been identified as a key market sector still badly under-served.

The average tariff in the BCBG chain will be about £30 for a single room and £40 for a double, including full English breakfast. A weekend break package is being launched at £16.50 per person a night.

There are three categories of hotels in the relaunch chain. One is traditional coaching inns and taverns. Another covers city centre, spa town and coastal resort hotels of Victorian and Edwardian vintage.

Union chief attacks bid by Wardle

An attempted take-over of Chamberlain Phillips, a key company in the British shoe industry, by Wardle Stores was strongly condemned yesterday by the National Union of Footwear, Leather and Allied Trades.

Mr Bob Stevenson, the union's general president, accused Wardle of "knowing nothing whatsoever about the shoe industry."

He said: "Wardle Stores is an old-fashioned asset-stripper. I appeal to those City institutions who control a majority of shares in Chamberlain Phillips not to allow any short-term considerations to outweigh their responsibility to the country and workforce of the company."

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Sun Life smoulders in Liberty's glare

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

So far the sun of newspaper comment has shone warmly on Peter Grant and his boardroom colleagues in their emotive campaign to drive the forces of darkness, as they see them, from inside the gates of Sun Life where TransAtlantic Insurance is camped with 25.7 per cent of its shares.

TransAtlantic, although no longer technically a subsidiary of Liberty Life of South Africa, is within Liberty's orbit and thus flies under the control of Donald Gordon. On several grounds, one being his South African nationality and another the suspicion that he wants ultimately to take over Sun Life, Mr Gordon is persona non grata with the self-perpetuating oligarchs who control Sun Life, without, as it happens, any substantial commitment as shareholders in the enterprise. However one views the protagonists, this is not a situation that can continue for much longer.

Until relatively recently, the Sun Life board took a fairly relaxed attitude to Mr Gordon's quiet progression to becoming the major shareholder with a strategic 25 per cent plus stake. He and the always-amiably but sharp Peter Grant got on well together, although the common ground between them was always less than it appeared. Mr Gordon consistently said he wanted no more than a constructive business relationship between TransAtlantic and Sun Life, albeit a relationship that took proper account of TransAtlantic's large shareholding. This option is no longer available, if it ever was.

With transparent sleight of hand, Sun Life tried at the end of last year to conjure a situation in which it could bring down TransAtlantic's equity interest below the critical 25 per cent level. It was extremely naive, and worse, of Sun Life to expect Mr Gordon, the man who gave Sir Weinberg to the UK insurance industry, not to compel Mr Grant to put his rabbit back into the hat.

TransAtlantic then decided that the Liberty-Sun gamble had gone on long enough and proposed a three-step in the Sun Life boardroom. At the annual meeting on May 13, shareholders will be asked to vote on the election to the board of Michael Middlemas, Denis Marlar and Michael Rapp — all Gordon men. The gloves are off.

Sun Life have hit out at Liberty's ambitions, endeavouring to make them seem reprehensible and worse, its move to have "proportional representation" on the board to which "there is no entitlement in law" and tactics "that could lead quickly to effective control, without having to make a general offer to all shareholders". There is more than a touch of hysteria in these assertions.

Yesterday TransAtlantic responded with a letter to shareholders, more moderate in tone, but making the point

that Peter Grant's "vehement opposition to the proper and legitimate exercise by TransAtlantic of its rights as a shareholder" to propose directors "is a matter of serious concern". TransAtlantic believes it has a right to fair and even-handed treatment, no matter how threatened the Sun Life board may feel.

In conveying views they may come to regret, Sun Life directors have almost committed themselves totally to the line that any takeover would be better than a take-over by Liberty-TransAtlantic. It would be a sad sight if Sun Life was hawked around to any or more likely foreign (although not South African) bidder. It may not do shareholder any harm (they have already seen their shares rise to extraordinary heights on expectations and inspired rumours of bids). But it is unlikely to sustain the image Sun Life is seeking to project of a company deserving the support of the financial establishment, and others, in finding off the shrewd and successful Gordon and the practical advantages he might bring to a business that sorely needs new directions and expanded horizons.

Carey and Craven

The appointment of Sir Peter Carey and John Craven to the two top jobs at Morgan Grenfell comes as a relief, not least to the Bank of England and the Treasury which were instrumental in prising out Christopher Reeves, the previous chief executive. Both Sir Peter and Mr Craven are able men and a little optimism about Morgan's prospects may be in order.

It is sad, though inevitable after Mr Reeves' departure and in the light of Morgan's travails, to see Lord Catto go. At 64, he is still a year away from his planned retirement age but the Bank is probably relieved, in the circumstances, to see him move into the purely ceremonial post, specially created for him, of president.

Morgan now has on the bridge two heavy-weight bureaucrats in Sir Peter (Whitehall) and Lord Pennock (ICI). Administration, not banking, is their strong suit. As a counter balance, Mr Craven's strength is merchant banking. His own company, Phoenix Securities, is small and transaction-oriented — the kind of operation which the "old-style" Morgan Grenfell understood: aggressive and fast on its feet.

Mr Craven's appointment demonstrates the group's desire not to forget its roots entirely. At the same time he has solid banking qualifications through S G Warburg, Credit Suisse White Weld and Merrill Lynch in London (an appointment he hated because of the constant interference by the New York parent).

Printing venture names managing director

Mr Tony Baker, production manager at Cumberland Newspapers in Australia, has been appointed managing director, Trafford Park Printers, in Manchester.

Trafford Park Printers will be a joint operating venture between News International and Telegraph Newspapers. The modern offset plant will publish copies of the Sun, News of the World, Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph.

Mr Baker will take up his appointment at the end of next month.

CT Bowring & Co: Mr Leslie Doherty has been made managing director and Mr MJ Stark and Mr JW Moffitt become directors. Bowring Tyson (IOM): Mr T McGraw becomes deputy chief executive.

South West Water Authority: Mr Keith Court is to become chairman from August 1.

London United Investment: Mr Charles Jacob joins the board.

APPOINTMENTS

utive, Bowring Martin. Mr KJ Foran becomes a director, Bowring Wales.

Charterhouse Bank: Mr Ewen Gilmore, Mr Alastair Muirhead and Mr Crispin Southgate join the board. Mr Paul Green and Mr Christopher Lee become divisional directors, banking services operation. Mr Duncan Wilson, Mr Michael Higgins and Mr Thomas Plant become assistant directors.

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Hestair makes record profit of £7 million

By Joe Joseph

Hestair, the holding company which until recently earned most of its business from engineering, will be focussing on its services and consumer products divisions after the purchase of three US employment bureaux for an initial \$16.4 million (£10.1 million).

The purchases of Talent Tree, First Temporaries and Team Services — to be funded by the issue of shares and a vendor placing — were announced yesterday with a pretax profit jump from £4.10 million to a record £7.33 million in the year to January 31.

Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 2.8p, making a total of 4.5p for the year.

Hestair's move follows the decision this month by Blue

Arrow, Britain's largest employment agency, to boost its US interests with the purchase of the Richards group.

A rise in Hestair's turnover from £119.28 million to £135.22 million masked the changing complexion of the group's business over a year which saw the acquisition of the JSD Computer Group, which places computer personnel on contract, and marked Hestair's final withdrawal from the ailing farm equipment business.

Mr David Hargreaves, the chairman, says that 70 per cent of Hestair's sales came from its services and consumer products division and only 30 per cent from engineering.

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The cost of loyalty

You have heard of golden halos, handshakes and hand-cuffs — now it's the era of golden bars. Within days of announcing its withdrawal from market-making, dozens of disillusioned back-up staff from Midland Bank's stock-broking offshoot, Greenwell Montagu, were touting themselves round the personnel departments of rival City firms, looking for work. But the flow of bodies has now been stemmed, I hear, by the introduction of a system of guaranteed loyalty bonuses.

During the past couple of weeks, salaries for Greenwell's core research and sales teams — in chemicals, banks, insurance and breweries — have been increased sharply and a number of them have been promised additional five-figure loyalty bonuses if they stay with the firm for the next 12 months. "We have been through a period of emotional strain but it has now stabilised and people are settling down again," says Martin Wonnor, deputy managing director of Greenwell. "In fact, we are now actively recruiting — looking for both sales staff and research analysts."

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ay! Ay! Ay! Iacocca

Lee Iacocca, the man at the wheel of American car giant Chrysler, grossed almost \$20 million last year in salary, bonus shares and other payments — making him the highest paid executive in US corporate history. His basic salary was just \$728,000 (£455,000), but he earned an additional \$975,000 in bonuses, was awarded Chrysler shares worth some \$12 million and picked up the

balance from deferred dividends, plus a contribution from the company's employee savings plan. As if that were not enough to last anyone a lifetime, it has also been revealed that he earned an additional \$15 million in stock options between 1981 and 1986 and has been promised a million further shares if he stays with the company beyond his 65th birthday in 1989.

island off the north of Scotland in the approximate position, if not the shape and size, of Orkney. But thousands of miles of coastline are missing — no Western Isles, no Skye, no Mull, no Anglesey, no Isle of Man, no Isle of Wight. Not a sign of Northern Ireland. The truth is there are plenty of places where you cannot buy a Wimpey home — they have just left them off the map.

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Royal thoughts from the past

A page from the school exercise book of the Duke of Windsor, when he was the Prince of Wales is expected to sell for £250 at an auction in London tomorrow. Giving a rare insight into Royal thoughts about the British Empire, he wrote: "It was some strange that a small country like England was able to conquer a vast country like India. But it is not so... really India conquered England. How is England able to hold so large a country? India is in reality only a geographical term. There is no Indian nation..."

His tutor marked the paper "well expressed" in blue crayon. Among the other autographs, those of pop stars are expected to fetch several times as much as those of presidents and intellectuals. A signed picture by Ronald Reagan is expected to sell for £120, a Bertrand Russell for £30 and a studio portrait signed by King George V and Queen Mary is in the £90 range. Meanwhile, a piece of paper signed by all four Beatles could go for £400 and a colour picture of Elvis Presley for £250.

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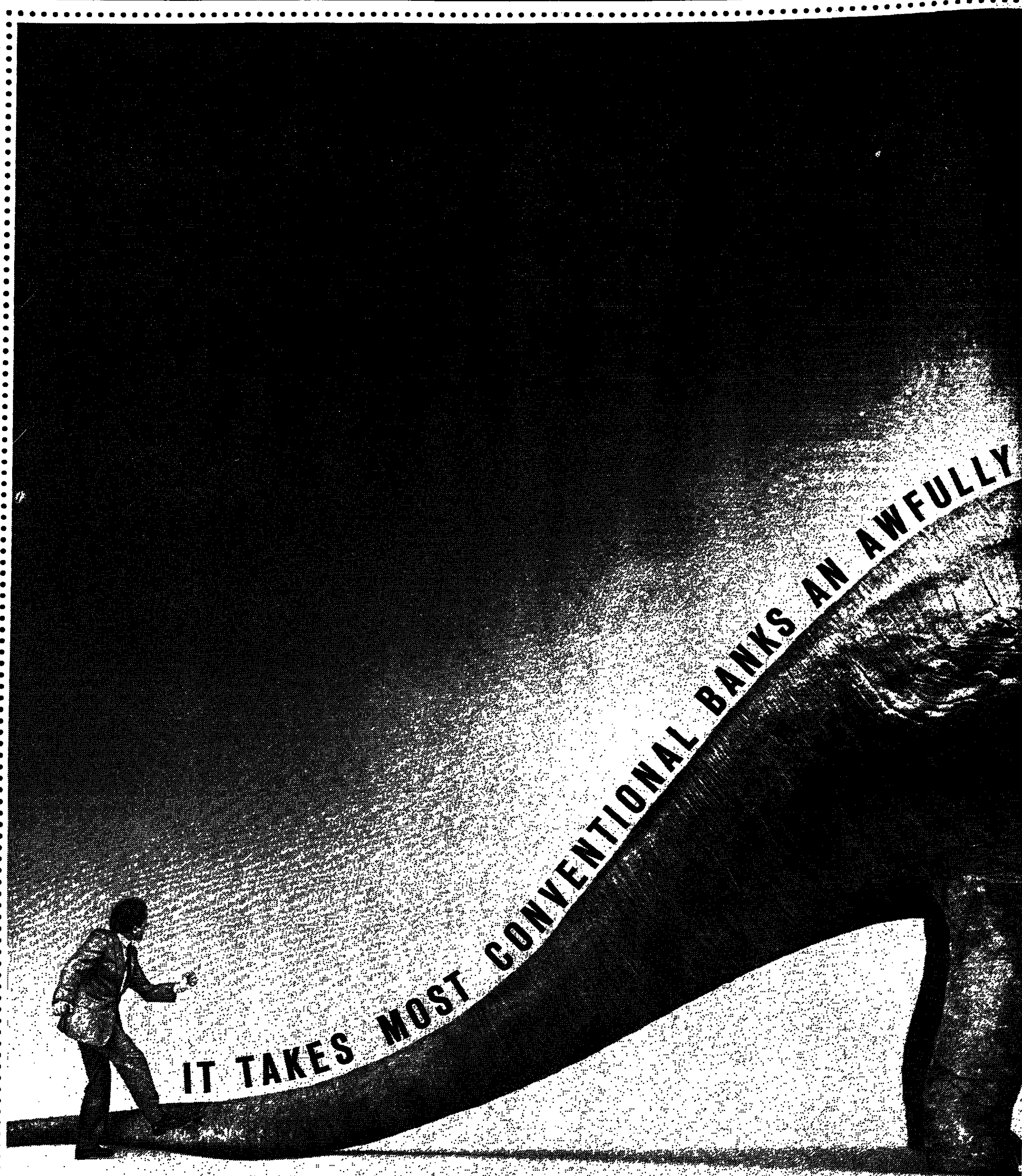
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In the time it takes for you to read this advertisement, our BankTrak service could tell you how much money you've got in bank accounts in Tokyo, Sydney, New York, London or any local branch in the UK.

In the same time period, you could use our Automated Payments Service to move any sum of money to or from your account with Midland in this country to link with any bank account worldwide.

And, in the same time period, using BACS we could pay out an entire company payroll into indivi-

dual bank accounts. Whereas the traditional British high-street bank will start by taking two days to send you a bank statement.

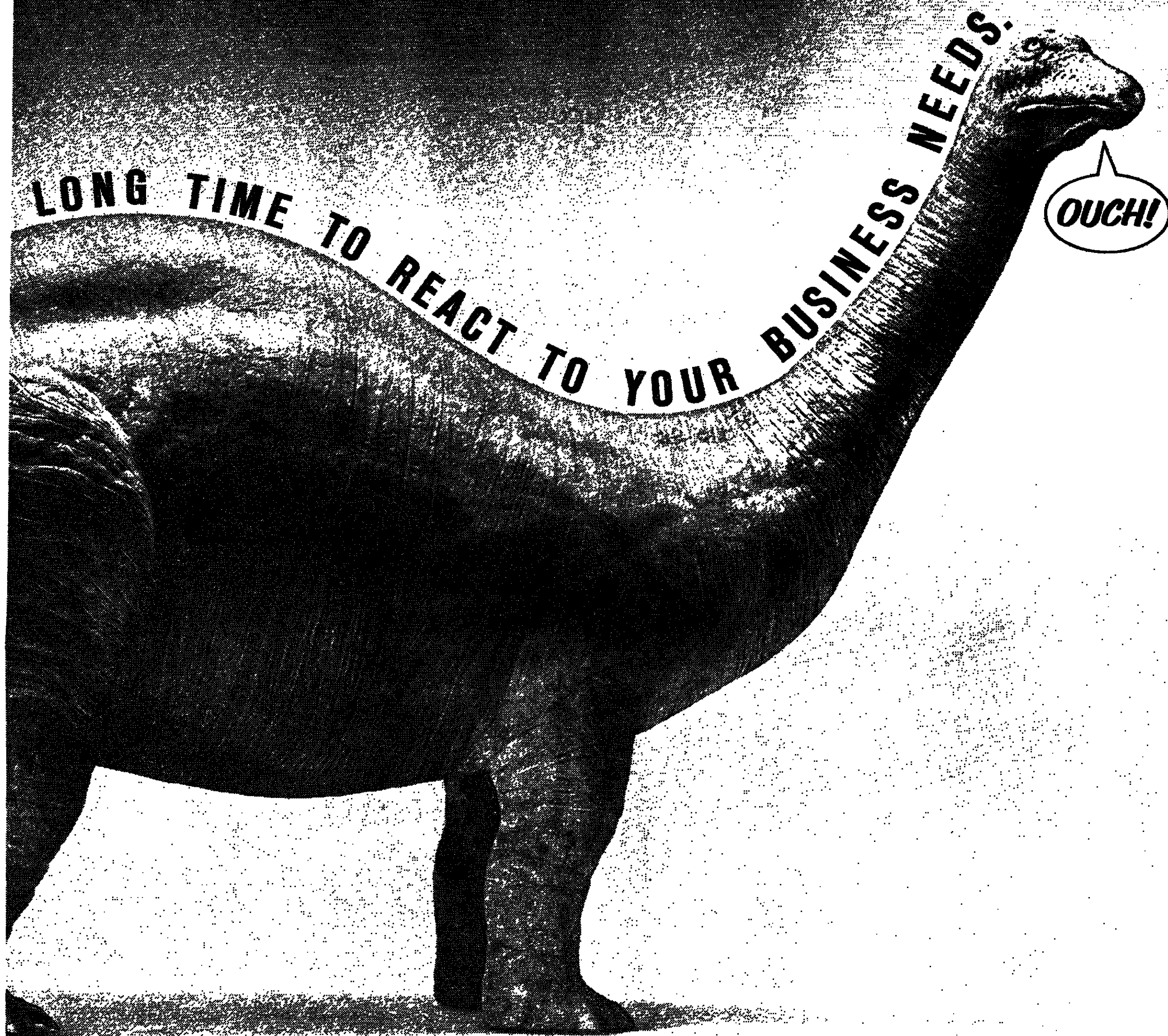
And as you know, in business, time is money.

In the foreign exchange arena, for instance, our Group Treasury responds instantly to requests for quotations. And it offers the full spectrum of money market opportunities - both over-night or over the longer term.

And we have experience of business transactions with countries all over the world. We have long-standing

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ties with all the leading world banks; we know the key people in most countries abroad; and we have an unrivalled network of 11,500 correspondent banks in 188 countries. So we can keep open lines of communication necessary to conduct business in all sorts of international situations.

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Three Months Starting	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 97	90.56	90.87	90.55	90.95	3829
Sep 97	90.87	91.00	90.87	90.89	771
Dec 97	91.09	91.17	91.08	91.09	236
Mar 98	90.88	90.95	90.88	90.95	71
Jun 98	90.79	90.90	90.79	90.82	82
Sep 98	NT	NT	NT	90.68	()
Dec 98	NT	NT	NT	90.85	()
Mar 99	NT	NT	NT	90.45	()
Previous day's total open interest 247.12					
Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 97	92.75	92.79	92.87	92.76	6976
Sep 97	92.40	92.43	92.28	92.38	3184
Dec 97	92.40	92.48	92.17	92.37	528
Mar 98	92.00	92.01	91.88	91.97	1191
Jun 98	91.77	91.77	91.77	91.77	31
Sep 98	NT	NT	NT	91.58	()
Dec 98	91.40	91.40	91.40	91.40	10
Mar 99	NT	NT	NT	91.24	()
Previous day's total open interest 2821.21					
US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 97	91.14	92.13	91.14	91.25	8305
Sep 97	91.09	91.08	91.08	90.28	10
Previous day's total open interest 4935.95					
Short Gilt	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 97	NT	---	---	---	---
Sep 97	NT	---	---	---	---
Dec 97	NT	---	---	---	---
Previous day's total open interest 0					
Long Gilt	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 97	123.30	124.28	123.08	124.25	33428
Sep 97	124.02	124.21	123.99	124.28	9
Dec 97	NT	---	---	---	---
Previous day's total open interest 20577.77					
FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 97	196.30	197.35	195.80	197.95	636
Sep 97	NT	---	---	202.45	---
Previous day's total open interest 19,440,000					

EQUITIES			
Arcours (180p)	192	Regina H Beauty (20p)	35 - 1/2
Burford (80p)	105	Reliance Sea (16p)	165
Camo (150p)	129 1/2	Sanders Bay (100p)	145
Capital Rock (105p)	164 3/4	Scandinavian Ship (210p)	145
Castle Comm (200p)	215	Scintex S 5 (50p)	110
Cooper (A) (130p)	180	SSG Group (100p)	81 1/2
Cundell New (125p)	150	Virgin (140p)	170 1/2
Dale Group (110p)	121 1/2	Waterpale (140p)	194 1/2
Dwin (155p)	183	Weyburn Nine (120p)	
Elfort	180		
Holmby (100p)	111	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Mil (142p)	194	Astra Ind N/P	8 1/2
Merch Op	129 1/2	DPCE N/P	36 1/2
Mallert (120p)	193 3/4	KH Shanghai N/P	407 1/2
Melville (114p)	125 1/2	Landrope N/P	36
Mercury Asset	308	Nash Inds N/P	36 1/4
Mono (152p)	178	Pct Pct N/P	90
Perpetual (180p)	193 1/2	Spartan N/P	10 1/2 - 1/2
RIO (95p)	98 1/2	War N/P	
RKF	71 1/2	(price in brackets).	

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Mar 30	Apr 11	Jul 9	Jul 20

Call options were taken out on: 23/4/87 Whim Creek, Silentnight, Rock Group, Martin Ford, EBC, Danks Heel, Attwoods, Norfolk Capital, Gold & Base Metals, Benlox, Benjamin Priest.
Put IBM.

	Costs				Puts				Land Securities ('411)	STP ('504)
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan			
Allied Lyons ('381)	380	35	48	57	12	18	22	350	20	83
	390	20	30	38	28	30	30	300	30	18
	420	5	15	25	35	35	35	380	24	10
British Gas ('56)	50	13 1/2	24 1/2	22	2 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2	500	107	117
	100	7	10 1/2	14	1	3	10	600	25	43
British Airways ('45)	190	19	22	—	6	9	16	Blue Circle ('605)	300	107
	180	4	11	16	19	22	24	100	24	10
BP ('93)	850	90	115	140	25	37	45	De Beers ('1300)	1200	105
	900	58	86	115	40	50	70	280	185	215
	950	35	60	—	72	—	—	500	105	145
British ('234)	220	20	31	37	6	8	13	Dioms ('37)	361	36
	250	14	16	18	12	26	28			
	280	6	11	18	32	36	38			
Coca Cola ('84)	800	28	88	117	1	42	67			
	1000	17	70	97	34	67	92	Dioms cond	560	—
	1050	1	82	80	87	105	120	140	19	30
Courtaulds ('413)	380	64	76	—	5	8	—	Gleno ('481)	1460	115
	400	41	50	74	15	20	20	1400	107	140
	420	26	40	64	26	39	35	1200	87	115
	480	14	26	—	53	56	—	1500	42	950
Com Union ('30)	300	26	38	47	11	15	19	Henson ('47)	195	27
	320	15	24	33	28	31	36	126	17	30 1/2
	350	5	16	—	54	57	—	150	15	19 1/2
Cable & Wire ('33B)	300	70	75	—	12	22	—	180	2 1/2	7
	350	45	55	70	12	22	27	Sears ('13)	140	5
	380	26	35	50	28	37	43	140	5	9
	380	26	32	32	45	63	63	100	18	12 1/2
GEAC ('19)	180	27	34	36	5	9	11	Tesco ('47)	500	66
	200	14	20	23	8	10	12	500	33	50
	220	7	11	—	18	22	—	500	10	28
Grand Mar ('475)	420	73	85	93	5	8	12	Thorn EMI ('30)	500	168
	480	45	57	65	13	23	26	1000	172	182
	520	32	42	55	38	40	45	1000	72	73
	550	7	17	—	77	80	—	600	36	48
ICI ('1273)	1200	126	160	180	34	40	56	THF ('22)	200	36
	1250	95	120	150	43	57	75			
	1300	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	1350	68	93	125	66	88	110			
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	1600	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	1650	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	1700	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	1750	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	1800	68	93	125	66	88	110			
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	1900	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	1950	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	2000	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	2050	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	2100	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	2150	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	2200	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	2250	68	93	125	66	88	110			
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	7550	68	93	125	66	88	110			
	7600	68	93	125	66	88	1			

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			OTHER STERLING RATES			DOLLAR SPOT RATES		
Market rates	Market rates	Market rates	Argentina austral	2,504.9-2,517	Belgium	1,489.0-1,489.5		
U.S. range	U.S. range	U.S. range	Australia	0.2112-0.2114	Brazil	2,134.5-2,141		
April 23	April 23	April 23	Bahrain dhr	0.6120-0.6124	Canada	2,479.6-2,480.0		
N York	1,859.0-1,859.0	1 month	Brazil cruzeiro	0.1210-0.1211	France	471.6-471.6		
Montreal	1,859.0-1,859.0	3 months	Bulgarian lev	0.7755-0.7805	Germany	1,331.0-1,332.0		
Am's dms	2,986.3-3,256	6 months	Colombian peso	1.1675-1.2075	Denmark	1,475.4-1,475.5		
Brussels	67.29-61.50	9 months	Greek drachma	1.2575-12.7575	Sweden	2,425.4-2,425.5		
London	2,986.3-3,256	12 months	Indonesian rupiah	20.75-20.75	Switzerland	1,489.0-1,489.5		
Paris	1,105.9-1,113.0	13-14 days	Japanese yen	360.00-360.00	West Germany	1,489.0-1,489.5		
Frankfurt	2,986.3-3,256	15-16 days	Malaysian dollar	0.4035-0.4035	Netherlands	2,051.0-2,052.0		
Liège	2,986.3-3,256	17-18 days	Mexico peso	0.0800-0.1400	France	471.6-471.6		
Madrid	10.97-11.07	19-20 days	New Zealand dollar	0.6890-0.6890	Italy	1,293.5-1,297.5		
Osaka	207.07-207.35	21-22 days	Saudi Arabia riyal	3.2523-3.2523	Portugal (Congo)	7.80-7.80		
Stockholm	2,986.3-3,256	23-24 days	S. Africa rand (rand)	3.2523-3.2523	Portugal	140.10-140.50		
Tokyo	207.07-207.35	25-26 days	U.A.E. dirham	5.9900-6.0000	Spain	167.6-167.6		
Zurich	2,986.3-3,256	27-28 days	Uyghuristan		U.S.	2.76-12.76		
Starting index compared with 1976 rate up at 72.5% of day's margin (72.5-72.5).								

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and CTD.

[illegible]

New York (Reuter) — Blue chips moved higher in early trading yesterday, encouraged by reports that the U.S. economy had posted a 1.3 per cent rise in the first-quarter GNP and steadiness in the dollar and bond markets, traders said.

The Dow Jones industrial average, striving to regain its composure after a 51.13-point tumble on Wednesday, rose 2.36 to 2932 at one stage when the transport indicator was down 1.69 at 926.81.

But the broader market was depressed as interest rates and inflation remained the foremost concerns.

[illegible][illegible]

	%	£'000	£'000
Turnover	33.5	41,121	30,802
Profit before tax	34.3	3,115	2,319
Retained profit	77.4	1,675	944
Earnings per share	24.3	22.68p	18.25p
Dividend per share	20.0	7.8p	6.5p

Turnover in the first weeks of 1987 is considerably higher than last year with all four specialist divisions well ahead of 1986.

Your Directors are encouraged by the high level of demand for the services provided by the Group and believe that 1987 will show considerable growth in both turnover and profit.

The Group has been awarded a contract for the printing of *The Sunday Times Magazine*. This is to commence in September 1987.



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RACING: PROGRESSIVE IRISH FILLY IS PICK OF A STRONG OVERSEAS CHALLENGE FOR TRUSTHOUSE FORTE MILE AT SANDOWN PARK

Grey Goddess can make fitness tell

By Mandarin

Grey Goddess, a fit and improving filly, can follow up her recent victory at the Curragh in the group two Trusthouse Forte Mile at Sandown Park today.

She gained a conclusive 2½-victory over King's College in the group three Gladness Stakes with some good horses behind, notably Polina. The going was soft that day but she has also proved her ability to handle fast ground, showing pleasing acceleration to land a group

three contest at the Curragh last season on good to firm going.

Trainer Edward O'Grady, who holds Grey Goddess in a high regard, has found a promising opportunity for his charge here as questions can be asked of several of her rivals.

Teleprompter rarely runs a bad race and certainly looks one of Grey Goddess's main rivals. However, he has not won first time out in any of his five season's racing and may again need the outing to bring him to his peak.

Hader enjoyed a tremendous season in 1986 but he too is without a run this season and is possibly better suited by seven furlongs rather than a stiff mile, while Cresta Auction, a good third at Newmarket last time, has shown his best form on easy ground.

However, for the map I rely on Street Party in the Childwick Bury Maiden Filly Stakes. She showed plenty of promise in her three runs last season, her best effort being a neck second to Sanabell at Salisbury after attempting to make all.

She looks as though she will be suited by this 1½-mile trip and hails from a stable which has already sent out three-year-old winners. Quella Fille, from another in-form stable, that of Paul Cole, could be the main danger.

Trapze Artist, twice a course and distance winner here, is penalized 4lb for his Newmarket success but more importantly he is not the easiest horse to catch right and could be worth opposing with Breeze.

Blockade was first past the post three times last season

although he was demoted to second on one of those occasions. He stays thoroughly and should be sharper for his seasonal debut at Kempton last weekend.

Barry Hills has made an excellent start at Manton and he can provide the best bet on the Beverley programme with Brave Defender in the Leconfield Maiden Stakes.

Sedgefield provides the National Hunt action and I nominate Big White Chief as an appealing prospect in division one of the Bran Tub Novices' Hurdle.

No respite as ill luck dogs Smith Eccles

By Alan Lee

Steve Smith Eccles has enjoyed the finest moments of his career at Cheltenham but he will want to erase this week's meeting from his mind as rapidly as possible.

The entire week, indeed, has been a nightmare for Smith Eccles. At Newton Abbot on Saturday he suffered the worst of his many falls this season. An injured wrist ruled him out of the Easter meetings and when he returned, still sore, on Wednesday he was dismayed to find his performance on Tuesday, runner-up in the feature hurdle.

Yesterday, his fortunes hit rock bottom. Chasing winners to help his trainer Nick Henderson's battle to retain his championship title, Smith Eccles hit the deck again in the Kiaccas, odds-on favourite for the Western Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

In contrast Simon Sherwood, who rode Kicker to win the Cheltenham Juvenile Novices' Hurdle, has enjoyed a fine week. Since Saturday, he has ridden eight winners, four of them for his brother Oliver, whose horses have emerged from minor season disorders in devastating form.

The Sherwoods took the first race yesterday with Tenzing and considered him a good thing on the prevailing ground. Tending to slow a pace, Henderson at Haydock on the May Day holiday but before that the Sherwood brothers have a date in Ireland next week when their latest winner Altona contests the Guinness Four-Year-Old Hurdle at Punchestown.

Among Altona's opponents will probably be David Nicholson's highly-rated Rangeli, withdrawn from Richard's race yesterday. Nicholson, however, profited from the fall of Kiaccas to score with New Gold Dream, ridden enterprisingly by Richard Dunwoody.

Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, The Thinker, remains a doubtful starter for tomorrow's Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park, but trainer Arthur Stephenson is following his own familiar routine of last-minute decisions.

Spokesman for the stable said yesterday: "Mr Stephenson will not make up his mind until the morning. We are obviously hoping for rain and the horse would almost certainly not run if the ground is too soft." The Thinker, in last month's Gold Cup and due to be ridden again by his Cheltenham partner, Chris Grant, is another unlikely to take part on firm ground.

Stoute formulates plans for Guineas

By Michael Seely

Michael Stoute announced yesterday that Walter Swinburn would ride Milligram and that Greville Stacey would be on Hiam as the reigning champion trainer attempts to beat his 1,000 Guineas jinx at Newmarket next Thursday.

Since Starkey rode Fair Salina into second place behind Eustace Spark in 1978, Stoute has had five frustrating experiences at watching six fillies finish in the first four in the classic. In 1986 Swinburn made marginally the wrong choice when Sonic Lady finished a short head behind Maysoon when the pair finished second and third to Midway Lady.

The news from the Henry Cecil camp was that Scimitarra is unlikely to run in the 1,000. The only possible Warren Place candidate is now Indian Skimmer, who finished fourth to Twister at Newmarket last autumn. Martin Stevens, the stable's easy Neil Gwyn Stakes winner, goes to Longchamp for the French 1,000 Guineas on May 25.

It was also announced that Stoute has had a change of mind. Of Wisdom will take on Zeal in an alternative target.



Michael Stoute: attempting to overcome Guineas hoodoo

tomorrow's Guardian Classic Trial at Sandown. Cecil plans to send Suhaili to next week's Coral Newmarket Stakes and Olivier Doube to contest the Pilsen of Wisdom, his Derby horse, in Paris on Sunday. Doube said that Noble Minstrel, his comfortable Free Handicap winner and currently third favourite at 10-1 for the 2,000 Guineas still has the French equivalent on May 10 as an alternative target.

Michael Stoute: attempting to overcome Guineas hoodoo

Ardent enthusiast who thrives on competition

By Christopher Gossling

Personalities more usually associated with flat racing have recently been appearing on the point-to-point circuit, notably Jeremy Hindley, the jockey and David Minton, the bloodstock agent.

All three of them are more than casual observers of the sport. Duffield plays the part of head to his wife, Gill, who trains point-to-pointers for both Hindley and Minton.

Mrs Duffield's involvement with the sport started three years ago. "I ran a livery yard where we had a stable full of hunters. Some friends of ours had a point-to-pointer who didn't jump very well and asked if we could help. We schooled it with our hunter and were later persuaded to race our horse. To our surprise he won the traditional members' race by a distance.

"After that we just loved it. My husband is as keen on pointing as me and finds he gets enormous pleasure watching our horses than he does race-riding. He does all the schooling at Newmarket, on the Links, and loves his hunting with the

"Rusted is a lovely horse. He can race on the flat but he has been ill there and then developed leg trouble. There is plenty of time for him to go hunter chasing. He is still improving. The Borough Green stable may, however, be represented at Towcester by Elusive Spirit.

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